Ban bogus party-list bets, Comelec asked

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2001 ★ 38 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 124 P15

Half-day for gov't employees only

GOVERNMENT workers will work only half a day today, April 11, but it's a full working day for the private sector. This announcement is made to clarify an INQUIRER story last week that said today is a "half-day holiday."

April 12 and 13, Holy Thursday and Good Friday, are regular holidays. Saturday, April 14, is a non-working day, the Palace announced.

Inquirer takes Lenten break

In observance of the passion and death of Jesus Christ, there will be no issues of the INQUIRER on April 13, Good Friday, and April 14, Black Saturday. Publication resumes on April 15, Easter Sunday.

WHERE it can happen: The unprecedented trial of an ex-president on charges of plunder at the Sandiganbayan courtroom, 3rd Division. EDWIN BACASMAS

Erap hits 'double standard'

What about Amari, Centennial Expo?

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND VOLT CONTRERAS

SAN CARLOS CITY—Joseph Estrada yesterday said he was leaving to his lawyers any legal move that would prevent his arrest and prosecution for plunder and other charges.

Upon learning that the Supreme Court had dismissed his second appeal on the issue of his presidency and immunity, Estrada flew back to Manila after leading a rally of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates yesterday at noon.

He was supposed to meet with his lawyers later in the day.

"Well, you see, I can only say that I will leave it all to my lawyers to determine (our next move). Because I'm not a lawyer myself," he said.

Estrada brushed off the possibility of his imminent arrest.

"It seems they are hurrying my case, while the Centennial (Expo scam) and the (PEA-)Amari (land scam) cases have been pending for almost two years (and) have not been taken up yet," he said, adding:

"How come they are in a hurry to dispose (of my) case immediately? There's something double standard of a justice in this country (sic)."

He reiterated that he was leaving his fate to his loyal followers, but pointed out that any call for a "People Power III" would "never" come from him.

ERAP/ A5

EDWIN BACASMAS

WHY are they hurrying my case?

Stage set for arrest, trial

SC junks 2 Estrada motions, 13-0 and15-0

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN, MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

THE STAGE is set for the arrest and criminal trial of Joseph Estrada.

Voting 13-0 for the third time yesterday, the Supreme Court threw out Estrada's second motion for reconsideration reiterating his claim to the presidency.

Such a motion is prohibited under the law, the tribunal noted. And apparently having enough of the legal maneuvers of Estrada and his lawyers, it said in a resolution that "no further pleadings will be entertained" on the presidency issue following an en banc session that lasted less than two hours.

Also for the third time, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban did not take part in the deliberations. Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag had earlier asked them to inhibit themselves from the case.

But Davide and Panganiban joined their colleagues in the subsequent 15-0 vote dismissing the request of Estrada's lawyers to bar the Sandiganbayan from proceeding with his trial on criminal cases, including the non-bailable charge of plunder that was raffled off among its five divisions last week.

In a phone interview, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said the high court's ruling had "cleared the way for an expeditious conduct of proceedings before the Sandiganbayan."

Desierto said it in fact gave the anti-graft court the go-signal to immediately determine if there was probable cause for the issuance of warrants of arrest for Estrada and his co-accused in the 11 complaints—eight implicating the ex-president—filed by the Ombudsman on April 4.

He also said the special prosecution panel was all set for the legal battle against Estrada's lawyers even if it had yet to be furnished a copy of the tribunal's resolution.

STAGE/ A4

ONLY in the Philippines: President Macapagal meets with convicted murderer Manero at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City with Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza, who facilitated the surrender of the priest killer. DENNIS SABANGAN

NAKU! DAPAT LAGING HANDA SA INIT NG PANAHON!

Keep cool, hotter days still ahead

BY NORMAN BORDADORA AND VOLT CONTRERAS

GET THOSE cotton shirts out, drink plenty of liquids and be prepared to pay a higher power bill because you will have to use your electric fans and air conditioners more often in the coming days.

Amid predictions from

KEEP/A14

Jinggoy blames GMA for Taytay housing mess

SAN JUAN Mayor Jinggoy Estrada yesterday blamed the Macapagal administration for the 16 unfinished five-story tenements for squatters at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Resettlement Area in Taytay, Rizal.

Estrada admitted that the San Juan local government, which undertook the project, received a P100-million check from the government in January for the tenements.

But he said San Juan was not able to draw the amount from the Land Bank of the Philippines because Malacañang had caused the check (No. 92690) to bounce.

"*Pinatalbog ng gobiyerno ni Gloria*," the mayor said, referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who came to power on Jan. 20 after People Power II ousted the mayor's father Joseph Estrada.

In a press conference, Estrada said the project was not finished because the Macapagal administration did not release the money.

The National Housing Authority (NHA) placed the cost of the project at P280 million.

The tenements lack toilets, run-

JINGGOY/ A14

Manero back in prison after meeting Macapagal

BY JOWEL F. CANUDAY AND JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO PRISON AND PENAL FARM—Norberto Manero Jr. walked back into prison at 4:55 p.m. yesterday, four hours after he was presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo in Zamboanga City.

This is the third time he was sent here since he was sentenced to life imprisonment for the brutal killing of Italian priest Tullio Favali 16 years ago.

"It's a good thing you have returned but I leave you to discuss your case with Secretary (Jesus) Dureza," Ms Macapagal told Manero while shaking hands with him at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City.

Manero wanted to say something to the President but was immediately escorted out of the VIP Lounge by Dureza.

There was no one-on-one meeting between Manero and the President as earlier planned, but a quick "presentation."

The President congratulated Dureza for the peaceful surrender of Manero.

Malacañang the other day ruled out a meeting between the President and Manero, who escaped from the Sarangani Provincial Jail on March 22 and surrendered to Presidential Assistant for Mindanao, Jesus Dureza the other day.

MANERO/ A14

Gov't, NDF pick Oslo, Norway, site for peace talks

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE ROAD to peace leads to Oslo in Norway, the venue chosen by the negotiating panels of the government and the National Democratic Front for the formal resumption of talks on April 27.

The agreement was reached over breakfast of chicken porridge. Negotiators from both sides met yesterday at Whistlestop on Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City.

Representing the government was chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III, assisted by Carla Munsayac, executive director of the government panel negotiating with the NDF.

The NDF was represented by chief negotia-

GOV'T/ A14

VALLES: So much for so many

Bishop finds peace, love in war

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE LITTLE Muslim girl tugged at the shirt of Bishop Romulo "Muloy" Valles, who was distributing relief goods in one of the depressed evacuation centers in Kidapawan.

The bishop looked down at the young refugee and asked what he could do for her.

She wanted the carton at the back of the truck where Valles was getting goods from donors in Metro Manila. She needed the empty box to cover the soggy ground where she slept every day, along with hundreds of other hungry and homeless children who had sought refuge in the center.

The bishop gave her the carton—and gave himself once more the reason and reward for all his hard work the past 25 years in the troubled region of Mindanao. Though born in Bohol, Valles grew up in Mindanao. It is where he has spent all his years of service since he was ordained a priest 25 years ago on April 6, 1976.

A close friend of the bishop, Fr. Peter Geremia, noted the fact that Valles' ordination in 1976 was the same year the Tripoli agreement was signed. It must have been an

BISHOP/ A14

Second FRONT PAGE

ANO BA YAN, BAKIT MAY GANYAN?

Housekeeper testifies against Rose Hancock

PERTH, Australia—The Philippines-born wife of late Australian mining magnate Lang Hancock repeatedly told a housekeeper to push his wheelchair so hard that "he would die," an inquest was told yesterday.

The ex-housekeeper also told the Western Australian Coroner's Court the then Mrs. Rose Hancock had argued several times with her husband about why his "bitch" daughter, Gina Rinehart, was in his will.

The multi-millionaire's wife remarried after his death nine years ago and is now Mrs. Rose Porteous.

Former Hancock housekeeper Maxima Simidrescu, 38, and Rose Porteous' gardener/personal assistant Trevor Watkins, 36, were the first two witnesses to give evidence on the second day of an inquest expected to last several weeks.

Hancock died in March 1992, aged 82, in the guesthouse of his luxurious home, known as Prix D'Amour, in the exclusive Perth riverside suburb of Mosman Park.

Lawyers for Rinehart will argue that Rose Porteous willfully murdered Hancock, the inquest was told Monday.

They also plan to argue four other people could be implicated in his death, the inquest heard.

An earlier police probe failed to find any evidence of foul play.

Simidrescu was a housekeeper at Prix D'Amour from March 1990 to June 1991.

She told the court that, during a round-the-world holiday, Rose Porteous had told her in Tagalog to push his wheelchair so hard that Mr. Hancock would die.

Simidrescu also told the court she barely knew Rinehart, Hancock's married daughter, but had heard her name mentioned in arguments between Hancock and his wife about his will.

"Many times I heard the name of Gina Rinehart," Simidrescu said.

She said "the will and Gina Rinehart, and why the bitch is in the will" were all the couple argued about. *AFP*

Ban bogus party-list bets, Comelec asked

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

TWO militant party-list organizations yesterday filed separate petitions with the Commission on Elections seeking to disqualify 17 allegedly "bogus" groups vying in the parallel party-list elections on May 14.

The Comelec had accredited these groups, which militants accuse of being "pretenders" to party-list status, which include major political parties, business associations and various interest groups identified with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Various sectoral groups have expressed outrage over what they see as a distortion of the aims and spirit of the Party List Law, which was passed to give a voice to under-represented and marginalized sectors in Congress.

In the run-up to the elections, various Estrada-era officials, businessmen, scions of political families, retired generals and showbiz personalities have surfaced as party-list nominees.

In a related development, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) said that the Comelec has yet to start orientating 700,000 teachers who are to serve as election inspectors and poll clerks on their election day duties.

"At this time in 1998, city and municipal Comelec officials have already scheduled teachers' briefings to explain to teachers their duties and responsibilities in the coming elections," said ACT president Carol Almeda.

ACT deputy secretary general Raymund Villanueva said the Comelec itself has admitted that no budget has been allotted as yet for the compensation of the teachers and the poll clerks.

In a 12-page petition, Bayan Muna asked the Comelec to cancel the registration and nomination of the National Federation of Sugar Planters (NFSP), Bagong Bayani, Citizens Movement for Justice Economy Empowerment and Peace (JEEP), Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), Sports and Health Advancement Development Foundation (SHAF), People's Reform Party, Philippine Local Autonomy Movement, Lakas-NUCD and Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

The Akbayan, led by Rep. Etta Rosales, wants these groups disqualified: the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba), Association of Builders, Consultants and Designers (ABCD), Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency Operators (Padpao), Security United League on Nationwide Guards (Sulong), Citizens Drug Watch Foundation, Go! Go! Philippines, True Marcos Loyalist Association of the Philippines, Organized Support for the Movement to Enhance the National Agenda (Osmena), SHAF, JEEP, MAD, and the NFSP.

Bayan Muna said the Comelec had erred in accrediting parties and organizations based on their capacity and resources rather than on the basis of whether they genuinely represented marginalized sectors.

The left-leaning party said that the NFSP, an organization of hacenderos, is already "overly represented" in Congress. All the congressmen from Negros Occidental, Tarlac and other provinces where sugarcane was cultivated were hacenderos, Bayan Muna said.

"Despite this overwhelming advantage, the NFSP was allowed to register under the party-list system and take away whatever measly opportunity sacadas have in winning a seat in Congress," Bayan Muna said.

The group also questioned the qualifications of the nominees of these "bogus" party-list groups, saying many of them were not bona fide members of the organizations they seek to represent.

Under Section 9 of Republic Act 7149, or the Party List Law, a nominee must be a bona fide member of the organization he seeks to represent for at least 90 days preceding the election.

Satur Ocampo, Bayan Muna president, said the Comelec violated the Party List Law and the 1987 Constitution in allowing the groups allied with Estrada and mainstream political parties to qualify as party-list candidates.

Bayan Muna counsel Neri Calmenares said the group would be filing a petition with the Supreme Court next week.

Akbayan, on the other hand, said the inclusion of big business interests, quasi-government programs, *trapo* (traditional politician) fronts and other dubious organizations in the Comelec list of 162 party-list groups "violated the substance and spirit of the party list system."

The Creba, NFSP, ABCD and Padpao are "obviously big business groups which have no business claiming that they represent the marginalized," Rosales said.

The Citizen's Drug Watch, MAD and Go! Go! Philippines are government programs developed and financed by the Philippine National Police and other government institutions, she added.

"The rest are groups created by big politicians who want extra seats in Congress," Rosales said.

She warned that there could be other "bogus parties and dummy organizations" in the list of accredited party-list groups.

The Akbayan representative said she had been calling for a review of the party-list applicants since October last year and even proposed guidelines, which the Comelec could adopt as a guide in the accreditation processes.

"But apparently, my proposals have been ignored by the Comelec," she said.

Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo earlier suggested that the Party List Law be amended as it allowed professional organizations and political parties to participate in the elections. ***With a report from Marie Carisa U. Ordinario***

Ramos warns voters against populist politicians

By Martin P. Marfil

FORMER President Fidel Ramos recently warned Asian business leaders against electing "populist politicians" citing the case of ousted President Joseph Estrada who he said had corrupted the bureaucracy and abused the public treasury.

The warning was contained in a speech where Ramos discussed what he called the three strategic challenges being faced by Asian governments—the economic challenge posed by globalization, the political challenge that deals with making democracy work and regional stability.

"Populist politicians competing to win votes in an electoral campaign with extravagant promises can, once elected, so debauch the public treasury and corrupt the bureaucracy that the state becomes reduced to near bankruptcy, as had been the case in some countries, including the Philippines during the short-lived term of former President Estrada who was ousted last Jan. 20 by a non-violent People Power uprising," Ramos said in the speech delivered on Sunday.

Ramos, who was the special representative of President Macapagal-Arroyo, spoke before an assembly of Asian traders in Tokyo where he had keynoted the 34th International General Meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council.

A copy of his speech was made available to the INQUIRER yesterday.

"Electing good leaders is never easy, even for mature democracies," he said.

"But electing good rulers is particularly difficult in poor countries where mass electorates all to often choose their leaders on the basis of their popularity and ability to buy votes," Ramos added in the same speech as he dealt with the political challenge of Asian countries.

He cited the Philippine case where movie actors, actresses, television personalities and star-athletes are elected to high office and Thailand where rural constituencies organized by patronage machines "swamp the better-educated and therefore more independent Bangkok electorate."

Ramos pointed out that in the past 15 years, five Asian countries—South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan and Indonesia—have emerged from dictatorships but added that this was not immediately translated into good government.

Democracy's trappings like elections, parliaments, a critical press, freedom of expression and religion, the formation of an independent judicial system, the former President said, were easy enough but making them work for the people required a long learning process.

Sedate rallies for PPC in Baguio

IN OBSERVANCE of the Holy Week, the People Power Coalition will only hold "small rallies and caucuses" in Baguio City today.

PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco said yesterday that the coalition had actually planned "a more sedate movement" in Baguio City even before officials imposed a ban against the holding of campaign rallies there from April 9 to 14.

Baguio City officials imposed the ban not only for campaign rallies but also for concerts for the first time in many years in observance of a new policy of "silence and solemnity" for the Lenten season.

"We respect their (officials') wishes. We are the guests there," Limcaoco said in a phone interview.

Senatorial candidates of the pro-administration PPC and the opposition Puwersa ng Masa are expected to be in Baguio City today.

Anti-Erap drive goes online

ACTIVISTS launched yesterday an online campaign against allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada who are running for congressional seats in the May 14 elections.

Campaign director Vicente Romano, said the popular local portal www.lagda.com will be used to spread electronic mail or short text messages on mobile phones urging the public to drop opposition candidates led by Estrada's wife, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

Romano said the campaign would marshal the 25,000 members of the portal's newsgroup to spread the messages *AFP*

The portal will also carry material critical of Estrada's candidates for downloading and reproduction, including satirical comic strips, he said.

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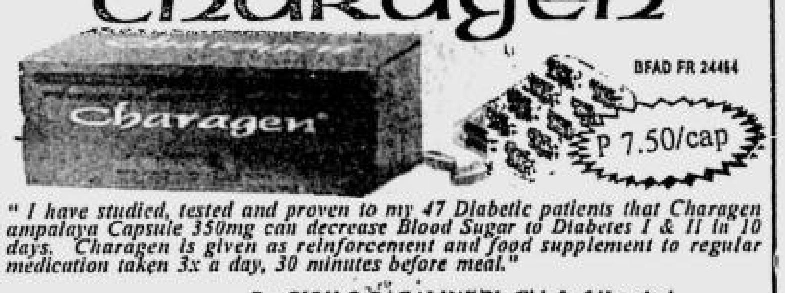

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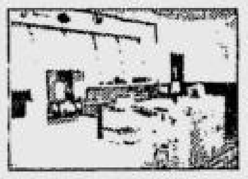

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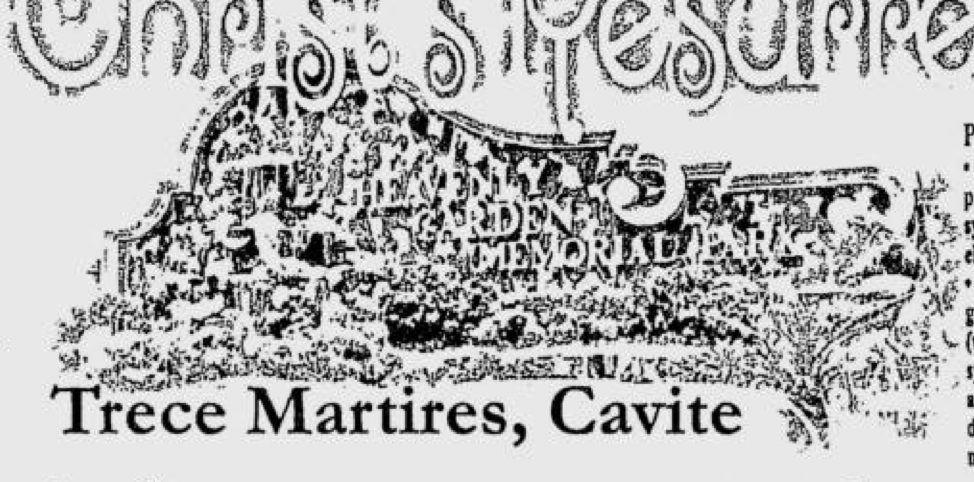

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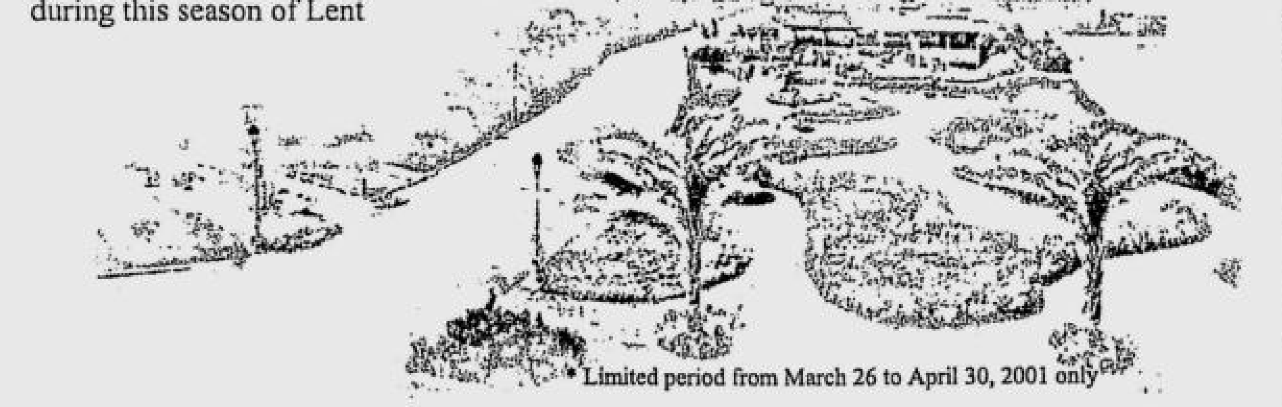

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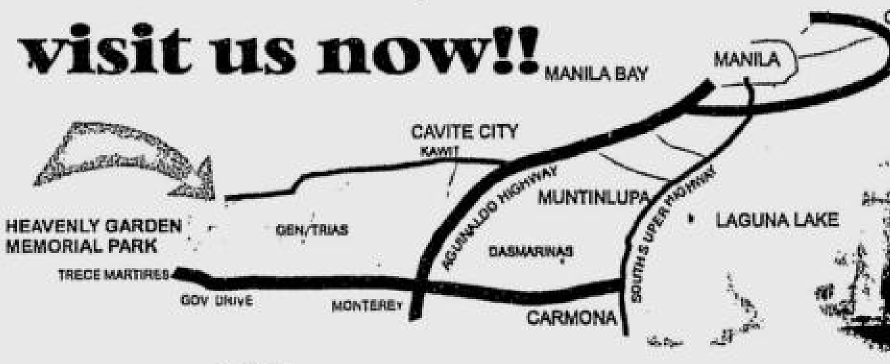

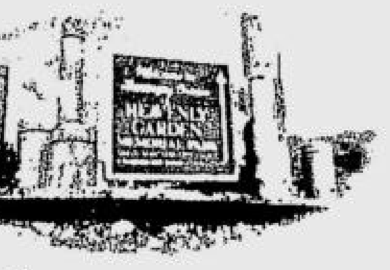

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Gloria scraps Naia trolley fees

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Arriving passengers will soon be relieved of an old burden at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport: they no longer have to queue up and pay for the baggage trolleys.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday finally abolished the P40 (or $1) fee for the pushcarts, something her predecessors refused to do.

The proceeds of the trolley fees, which add up to P10 million a month, were supposed to go to charity, but the system was widely believed to have been abused and did not reach their intended beneficiaries.

The Ifugao Development Foundation under Ramos administration and the Sabers Foundation under Estrada were both accused of failing to help the intended beneficiaries.

"I have directed the (Ninoy Aquino International Airport) to stop collecting payment for the use of baggage pushcarts in the international airport," she said in a news briefing at the Edwin Andrews Airbase here.

"The passengers, especially foreign businessmen, tourists and incoming overseas contract workers deserve courtesy and service, not the unnecessary hassles and expenses for the use of pushcarts," Ms Macapagal said in a press statement.

"So, the airport is the first and the last place seen and observed by visitors. Let it not be said that the airport is a place where travelers are needlessly subjected to expenses, inconveniences and all of these burdens," she said.

PRESIDENT'S ULTIMATUM

Surrender or die, Abu told

ZAMBOANGA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday issued an ultimatum to the Abu Sayyaf, calling on them to surrender if they still want to live and ordered the military "to fight to the finish" and recover the last two hostages being held by the extremists.

Describing herself as "not a happy warrior," the President said she was willing to unleash the full military might of the government in the interest of the Filipino people.

"This is a fight to the finish, the operation has no deadline," she told reporters at a press briefing at the Edwin Andrews Air Base.

But in Jolo, Sulu, the President reminded soldiers to respect human rights in quashing the Abu Sayyaf.

Reminder

"It is very, very important that human rights are respected and civilians are protected," Ms Macapagal was quoted as saying in a closed-door conference with military commanders.

The President flew to Zamboanga City and Sulu yesterday to hold meetings with military officials.

Noting how the military has been scoring victories against the "band of brigands," she said "these developments should make all Abu Sayyaf leaders pause."

Ms Macapagal was briefed on the three major encounters between the military and the bandits, including the recovery of 45 high-powered firearms, the killing of three Abu Sayyaf fighters and the wounding of a government soldier.

Not Abu members

But Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Ahmad Salayuddin, alias Abu Sabaya, in an interview over station dxRZ Radyo Agong, said the military had captured 12 innocent civilians, not Abu Sayyaf members.

He said the firearms also belonged to civilians.

AFP chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva maintained that the recovered firearms belonged to the bandits and those arrested had been confirmed as Abu Sayyaf members.

Sabaya also challenged the government to a "ground-to-ground assault."

He disclosed that his group would be buying next week "portable missiles," each costing around $250, to counter the government's "high-tech" war.

MACAPAGAL

Mini-Marshall plan

In Jolo, the President also announced that a kind of mini-Marshall plan would be implemented in Mindanao, particularly in those areas that are now the scene of combat fighting, including Sulu province.

Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan, quoting the President, said the program's special emphasis will be on education, livelihood and basic education.

Meanwhile, the United States said on Monday it was increasingly concerned about attacks by the Abu Sayyaf on parts of Malaysia's Sabah state.

The US State Department warned US citizens to take "extreme caution" in the area and warned that the group had stationed detachments in places, including Sipadan and Pandanan islands, where gunmen have previously carried out kidnappings.

The Abu Sayyaf severely embarrassed the Philippine government last year when it launched a massive kidnapping spree in Malaysia and took large groups of foreign hostages back to Sulu. *Julie Alipala-Inot, Noralyn Mustafa and Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Armand Nocum, Metro Manila*

IMF sees RP growth lower than gov't forecast

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund said yesterday it expects the economy to pick up this year but only if it pushes through with crucial reforms, particularly on its fiscal sector.

Apparently adopting a more cautious stance on Philippine growth prospects despite renewed investor confidence, the IMF foresees gross domestic product growth of 3 percent this year, lower than the government's 3.8 percent forecast.

"We share the authorities' view that the recent rebound in confidence, coupled with peso stability and lower interest rates, will support a pickup in economic activity this year," said Markus Rodlauer, the head of the IMF mission which has just ended a two-week review of the economy.

But he warned that this would depend on both external developments and implementation of government plans, many requiring the approval of Congress.

"A lot of work lies ahead," particularly in the area of boosting revenues in order to control the budget deficit and still having enough money to spend on much-needed infrastructure projects and education, the IMF official said.

The fund praised the government's plans to overhaul tax administration and praised the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for its exchange rate management, calling it "a pillar of strength" for the economy.

It cited reforms that the government had to implement as a priority, including a power sector liberalization that still remains stalled in Congress, tax legislation which will allow the development of capital markets and strengthened supervision of banks.

Rodlauer also called for stronger anti-money laundering practices and the passage of a new insolvency law.

The Philippines forfeited the last tranche of a $1.4 million IMF loan last year after the government missed its budget deficit target.

It has not obtained a new IMF program, but is voluntarily submitting to scrutiny by the IMF over the next two years to improve its credit profile.

Economic growth in late 2000 and early 2001 slowed sharply as ousted President Joseph Estrada became entangled in a massive corruption scandal.

However, investor confidence has improved since Estrada was toppled in a popular uprising in January, which saw economist Macapagal-Arroyo installed as president.

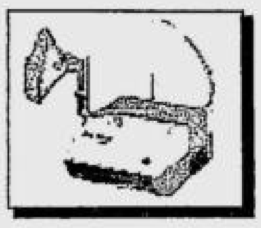
Ms Macapagal has imposed a number of austerity measures aimed at curbing the projected record P225-billion deficit this year to a more manageable P145 billion.

The IMF believes that the slowing US and Japanese economies—both countries are major trading partners of the Philippines—would significantly influence economic growth.

The government already cut its growth target down to 3.8 percent, from 4.3 percent, because of the expected slowdown of the US and Japanese economies.

The IMF also praised the government's seriousness about pursuing good governance.

"There is an overall spirit that permeates this administration and shows us that it is serious in reforming bureaucracy, improving transparency and paving the way for a level playing field," said Rodlauer. *Clarissa S. Batino with a report from AFP*



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CEBU

Toyota strike ends; row goes to forced arbitration

BY RAUL C. DANCEL, GIL C. CABACUNGAN AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday succeeded in hammering out a temporary settlement of the labor dispute at Toyota Motor Phil., ending a strike that threatened to force Japan's biggest automobile maker to pull out of the country.

Sto. Tomas certified for compulsory arbitration a case filed by Toyota asking the labor department to declare illegal the strike that the union called on March 28.

This would compel the company to take back the more than 220 workers that it had dismissed on March 16 and the union to lift its picket and return to work while the National Labor Relations Commission resolves the case.

Win-win solution

Both union and management welcomed the labor secretary's proposed solution.

All striking workers are directed to report for work on April 16 and the company, in turn, directed to accept them.

"This is one of the things that we have been fighting for: that they take back the workers they dismissed illegally," said Emilio Completo, spokesperson of the TMPC Workers Association.

Toyota expects to resume normal operations today in both its Laguna and Parañaque assembly plants.

Spokesperson Ariel de Jesus said the company's two assembly plants, which had been shuttered for the past 14 days, would step up production to fulfill its sales targets.

The company lost almost P150 million from the strike.

Sto. Tomas said the NLRC would look into the cases of the dismissed workers individually and determine whether the strike called to protest their dismissal was illegal.

But industry observers say the settlement only signals a lull in the dispute.

The TMPCWA has been fighting to be recognized as a collective bargaining agent for rank-and-file workers, an issue that, strictly speaking, is already out of the labor secretary's jurisdiction.

Former Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma had recognized TMPCWA as a rank-and-file union with authority to collectively bargain with Toyota, which Sto. Tomas has affirmed.

Challenged

Toyota, however, has challenged this decision before the Court of Appeals.

What the labor department hopes to settle is the dismissal of the more than 220 rank-and-file workers who make up the bulk of the TMPCWA's membership.

The company said it had fired the workers because they were performing poorly and abandoned their posts for three straight days, necessitating production cutbacks.

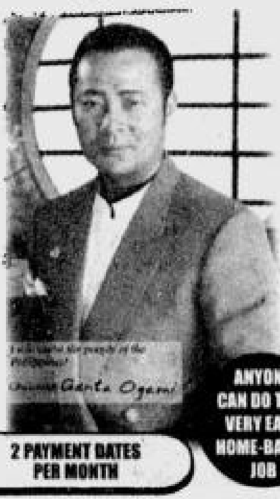
TMPCWA president Ed Cubelo said, however, the dismissal was meant to break the union's back.

He said that the workers that Toyota had removed did not abandon their posts.

The ensuing strike paralyzed operations of the Laguna and Parañaque assembly plants where the company assembles its best-selling Corolla and Revo models. Toyota was unable to roll any vehicles out of these factories.

Toyota has threatened to pull up stakes and leave the country if the labor problem is not resolved in its favor.

Other Japanese companies are said to be ready to follow Toyota's lead in shutting down their Philippine factories if the government were to show any tolerance for rising labor activism in the country.



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Another case of plunder filed

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

FOUR groups of lawyers yesterday lodged with the Ombudsman another criminal complaint for plunder against Joseph Estrada, his friends Jaime Dichaves and Mark Jimenez and certain ex-officials of the Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System and Belle Corp.

The newest complaint, which brings to five the total number of pending plunder cases against Estrada, was filed in connection with the government's purchase of Belle Corp. shares of stock using state pension funds.

The four groups also asked Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to indict Dichaves and Jimenez and the ex-officials for graft, violation of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and other criminal and administrative charges.

The other respondents are former GSIS president Federico Pascual, former SSS president Carlos Arellano and Belle Corp. vice chair Willy Ng Ocier.

Also named respondents are ex-GSIS board members Hermogenes Concepcion, Leonora Vasquez-De Jesus, Reynaldo Palmiery, Elmer Bautista, Fulgencio Factoran, Floriño Ibañez, Aida Nocete, Leovigildo Arellano, and SSS commissioners Dody Agcaoili, Rafael Estrada, Amado Almazan, Aurora Arnaez, Raoul Inocentes, Marianita Mendoza, Cecilio Seno, Miguel Varela, Aurora Mathay, Amalio Mallari, Enriqueta Disuanco and Fernando Gaite Jr.

The complainants are lawyers Leonard de Vera, Romeo T. Capulong, Crisostomo Akol and Roberto Guevarra of the lawyers' groups CLEAR, Clamor, Ouster and ARM, respectively, and Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

They filed the newest complaint so that Desierto could include the respondents as Estrada's co-accused in the plunder complaint filed before the Sandiganbayan.

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Stage set for arrest, trial

(From page A1)

The panel, led by Desierto, is composed of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo and Presidential Management Staff member Jonathan Teñefrancia.

It will be assisted by 12 senior Ombudsman prosecutors and five lawyers and prosecutors from the Department of Justice, as well as private lawyers functioning in an "unofficial" capacity.

Lawyer Andrew Ammuyutan, chief of the Office of the Ombudsman's legal division, said the prosecution panel was now "consolidating, collating and improving the state of our evidence in preparation for trial."

"We are organizing ourselves, like assigning to prosecutors the handling of certain sets of documentary evidence and (determining) who will cross-examine the 35 witnesses," Ammuyutan said. "In short, we are going into the particulars of the prosecution."

He said these matters were at the top of the top-level meetings that the panel had been conducting since the Ombudsman initiated criminal proceedings against Estrada, former first lady Luisa Ejercito, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, among others, with the anti-graft court.

For real

In Rosales, Pangasinan, People Power Coalition (PPC) senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo, who led the prosecution team at Estrada's aborted impeachment trial, said "the ball is now in the Sandiganbayan."

"*Totohanan na ito* (This is for real)," Arroyo said. He reiterated his earlier call for Estrada to quit campaigning for the candidates of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa (LDP-PnM) and instead "talk to his lawyers."

Arroyo said Estrada "cannot manipulate" the Sandigan trial in the supposed way he was able to maneuver 11 senator-judges into voting against suppressing evidence against him at his impeachment trial.

Wigberto Tañada, another PPC senatorial candidate, said he was not surprised at the tribunal's latest ruling that dealt with what he described as a mere "pro forma" move by Estrada's lawyers.

"Estrada should now face these cases and show proof that he is not guilty, as he has been saying," Tañada said.

Also in Rosales, former President Fidel Ramos said "the courts must now take over without any delay, without any further litigation or legal maneuvering."

Ramos added: "I think people are happy because justice will be served.

"Nobody's above the law, and the alleged violations, especially plunder, can be brought up transparently for the benefit of the people and judgment of the courts."

Prohibited pleading

In its 13-0 vote, the tribunal pointed out that Rule 52, Section 2 "in relation to Rule 56, Section 2 (of the) 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure" prohibits the same party from filing a second motion for reconsideration on the same issue.

Saguisag filed on April 4 the second motion questioning the tribunal's second 13-0 vote upholding Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency.

The second 13-0 vote was an offshoot of the first motion for reconsideration that Saguisag also filed.

Saguisag openly admitted in his second motion that he was violating Rule 52, Section 2 of the rules of court.

He said, however, that he had done so because the high court set a "dangerous law" by basing its decision on the diary of former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara.

Saguisag reiterated that the high court could not use Angara's account of Estrada's last three days in Malacañang to decide whether he had resigned the presidency as this was in violation of the rules on evidence.

But Saguisag's arguments failed to convince the tribunal to change its mind on the issue and denied his motion "for lack of merit."

The one-page resolution signed by clerk of court Luzviminda Puno also noted that "a second motion for reconsideration was a prohibited pleading" under court rules.

Following this, the tribunal also resolved to deny for lack of merit the motion of Estrada's other lawyers "for leave to file (a) second motion for reconsideration and to admit the attached second motion for reconsideration" filed April 5.

"Accordingly, the second motion for reconsideration attached to the aforementioned motion for leave is noted without action in view of the denial of the latter," the tribunal said.

"No further pleadings will be entertained," it concluded.

In its 15-0 vote, the tribunal junked the petition of Estrada's lawyers for certiorari and mandamus that in effect asked that the Sandigan be barred from beginning his criminal trial.

The tribunal said the petition should have been filed before the Sandigan itself.

Estrada's lawyers had asked that the anti-graft court not begin the trial until their request for a reinvestigation of the criminal cases filed by the Office of the Ombudsman had been completed.

Judicial process

Ammuyutan said cases at the Sandigan usually went through this process: determination of probable cause on the cases, issuance of a warrant of arrest, setting of the date for arraignment, and conduct of the hearings.

He said that up to this point the court had not yet assumed jurisdiction of the complaints because it had yet to issue arrest warrants for the accused.

"If Estrada is arrested, the Sandiganbayan would then acquire jurisdiction of the cases. It can immediately set the date of the arraignment to allow him and his co-respondents to plead guilty to the charges or maintain their innocence," he said.

But with the tribunal's latest ruling, Estrada has no recourse but to submit to the authority of the Sandigan, Ammuyutan said.

He said the Ombudsman was confident that it had anticipated all the issues that the defense team might raise.

According to Justice Secretary Perez, the DOJ wants to file one to three more plunder cases against Estrada if the law permits.

"We are (studying) whether we are allowed to file other plunder cases or are limited to only one. That's a legal issue that we are now considering," he told reporters at a PPC rally Monday night in Batangas City.

Asked what were the chances, Perez said it was "possible" that additional plunder cases could be filed against Estrada.

He said three more plunder cases involving "the use of government funds for private gain" were being readied but that the DOJ could consolidate these into "one big plunder case" if necessary. *With a report from Juliet L. Javellana*

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Erap hits 'double standard'

(From page A1)

At around 4 p.m. yesterday, the Fortun Narvasa and Salazar Law Office submitted the joint counter-affidavit of Estrada and his son Jinggoy in connection with Criminal Case No. 26558, which had been raffled to the Sandiganbayan's third division.

The case involves the non-bailable charge of plunder that will be heard by the division chaired by Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy, with Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Ricardo Ilarde as members.

Earlier in the day, Estrada lawyer Raymund Fortun said he accepted the decision of the Supreme Court junking his client's petition that the tribunal stop the Sandigan from hearing the complaints.

With the high court's decision rendering moot Estrada's earlier motion for the Sandigan to defer proceedings, his defense team proceeded to the next step of seeking the outright dismissal of the plunder charge for "lack of factual basis."

Asked if he, like some of his allies, would also call for an uprising similar to the one that led to his ouster in January, Estrada said: "They will never get it from me. I've been stopping them. There are so many calls. So many came to me, many secretly . . . I told them to stop. I told them that we will exhaust all legal remedies as much as possible."

He said his lawyers had informed him that the Sandigan would spend time to determine probable cause for the plunder charges before it issues any arrest warrant.

Unperturbed

Estrada's wife, LDP-PnM senatorial candidate Luisa Ejercito, who is also charged with plunder, continued to appear unperturbed about her own arrest.

"Why would they arrest me? How can they arrest me where there's no proof (against me)?" she told the INQUIRER in Taglish. "I am willing to go to jail, but they accused me of something for which there is no proof, no evidence."

It became apparent that Ejercito believed she was charged before the Sandigan for allegedly diverting funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. A Senate investigation had earlier cleared her and her son Jinggoy on this case.

"They are reviving the PCSO (scam). But that's finished. Actually, I've been asking what my case is. I haven't read the documents," she said.

Ejercito, her husband and their eldest son Jinggoy are charged with pocketing a sizeable portion of the P130-million tobacco tax funds for Ilocos Sur.

In the meantime, Ejercito said, she had no plans of stopping her senatorial campaign.

"I leave that to the lawyers," she said when told of the Supreme Court's latest ruling.

Ejercito also denied reports that her husband would eventually substitute for her in order to evade prosecution, saying: "That can't be. There's a law against it."

Reelectionist Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile, both LDP-PnM candidates and allies of Estrada at his impeachment trial, urged the crowd at San Carlos to help the ex-president in his legal cases.

Santiago said she was urging "civil unrest" against the tribunal's ruling that said Estrada had effectively resigned from office.

"I don't know about (Estrada), but I'm definitely an advocate of civil unrest. I want the majority, the poor, to speak up on this issue," Santiago said in an interview.

She added: "Absolutely, I'm thinking along the lines of an Edsa III. I'm acting as a spark plug. I'm definitely trying to make the people articulate exactly what they want to do.

"I'm asking the Filipino masses to tell the Supreme Court that its decision was wrong. That's also allowed in a democracy."

Enrile told the crowd that once elected, he would work on two major issues: lowering taxes and helping Estrada.

"Let's help him, let's fight for him because he is being oppressed. Up to now, the people recognize Erap," Enrile said in Filipino.

Position paper

Attached to the Estrada counter affidavit, which was about 1.5 inches thick including annexes, was a six-page "position paper" in which father and son counter-accused the Office of the Ombudsman of not allowing them to respond properly to the charge prior to its filing.

The 27-page document started off with Estrada maintaining that he was still the country's president whose term would end in 2004 but who was "currently unable to discharge my duties."

Apart from containing Estrada's total denial of the charge, the affidavit mostly focused on destroying the credibility of "Juetengate" whistleblower and his former buddy, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

It cited one instance to show that it was Singson who even tempted Estrada to accept bribes from jueteng lords:

"In late January 2000, I was invited as principal sponsor in the wedding of one of Chavit Singson's daughters . . . It was during this occasion that Chavit Singson asked me if I would like to receive moneys from jueteng. I became furious of him, and told him that I have never received jueteng money, even during my days as a mayor of San Juan in the 1960s."

In September 2000, Estrada said he got an angry phone call from Singson decrying the emergence of Bingo 2-Ball as a deterrent to jueteng, which the governor has been operating in his province.

Singson was actually furious over the award of the Bingo 2-Ball franchise to another Estrada pal, Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Estrada, in his affidavit, recalled how Singson blew his top in that alleged phone call: "*P— mo, hindi mo ba ako tatantanan. Kumpare pa mandin kita. Naku, huwag kang magtanga-tangahan. Sabi ni Atong, ikaw ang nag-utos na pabagsakin ako. Ganito ha? Itigil niyo 'yang Bingo 2-Ball na 'yan. Kung hindi, palalabasin ko na tumanggap ka ng P200 million sa akin, at ipa-i-impeach kita.*"

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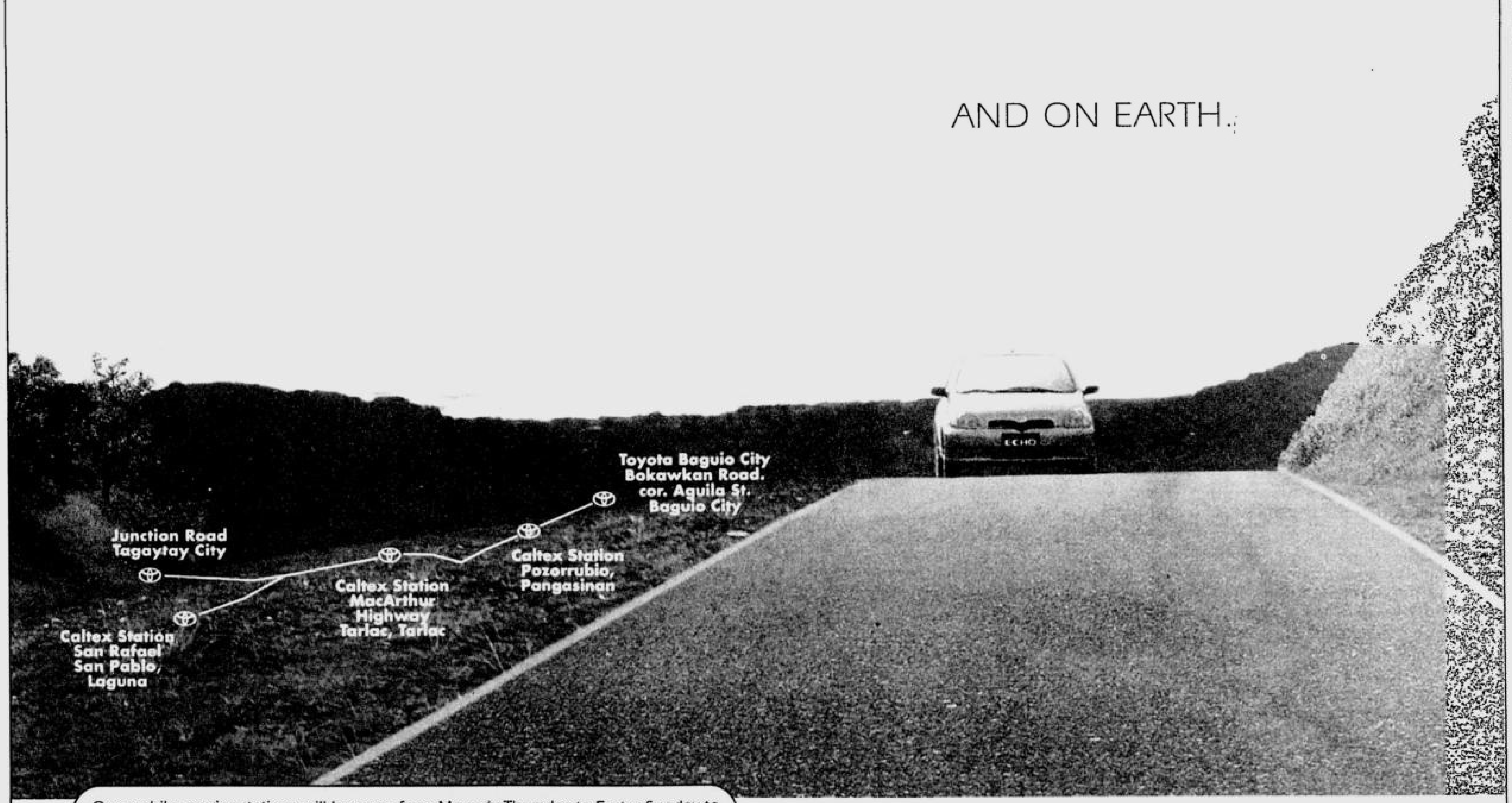
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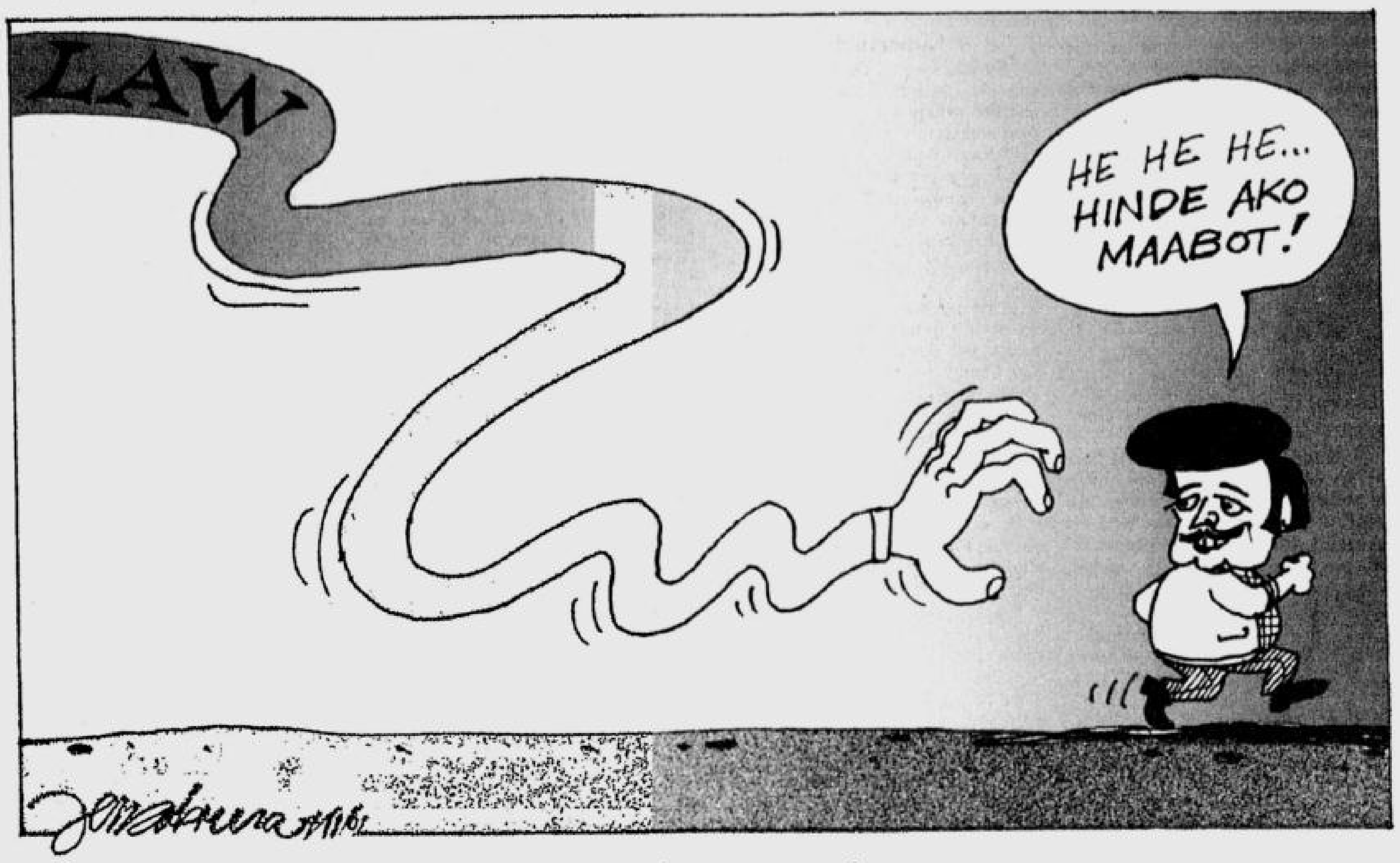
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Harbingers of peace

EDITORIAL

THE HARBINGERS of peace fill the air as the nation enters the Lenten holidays. The peace process is well under way on two fronts of conflict—negotiations to resume peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the National Democratic Front. The preferential option for negotiations chosen by the government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has created an atmosphere conducive to a resumption of dialogue.

On Sunday, the senior leaders of the NDF arrived from The Hague as a gesture of their willingness to reopen the peace dialogue. They are to attend a solidarity conference on peace on April 18 hosted by the National Council of Churches of the Philippines and the Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. The President will speak at the conference which will provide the venue for a chance encounter with the NDF panel.

The climate for negotiations has been enhanced by the release on Sunday of Army Maj. Noel Buan after 21 months of captivity by the communist rebels. The issue being addressed by the government and the NDF is the scale of the ceasefire—whether it should be nationwide—and the duration of the truce. The government has agreed to hold talks in a third country beginning on April 27.

The visit here of Luis Jalandoni, chief NDF negotiator, and Antonio Zumel, one of the NDF's senior leaders, reflects faith in the atmosphere of trust while the path is being explored for serious talks.

In the past, safe conduct and immunity from arrest while talks were under way had always hung heavily over the heads of the communist negotiators.

Jalandoni and Zumel have been away from home for many years, observing from The Hague, their place of asylum, the ups and downs of negotiations during the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos, only for it to completely collapse under the Estrada administration. The talks failed after the NDF withdrew from the negotiations in the wake of the ratification by the Senate of the Visiting Forces Agreement. But the negotiations had no chance to survive from the shift to the all-out war policy of President Estrada, a war that plunged the nation into armed conflict with both the NDF and the MILF. The situation is now reversed.

Jalandoni and Zumel find a new political environment that is more open to the participation of the NDF in electoral politics, as an alternative to rebellion. Shortly after the accession of President Corazon Aquino in 1986, she not only freed political prisoners from the Left but also opened the political arena for the entry of the communists into the parliamentary stream. The Aquino initiatives, however, were too far ahead of the political reality in which the political system was not prepared to accept communist representation in Congress.

Congress has passed legislation implementing the party-list concept introduced by the 1987 Constitution. In People Power II, the Left abandoned the disastrous boycott it had in the 1986 Edsa Revolution, and became a dynamic element in the people's movement to depose President Estrada. This activism is now directed toward winning seats in Congress, via the opening held out by the party-list elections.

One of the spearheads of the Left targeting participation is Bayan Muna, a party which fields Satur Ocampo as one of its candidates. There is no question that the Left is one of the marginalized and unrepresented political tendencies envisaged by the law to contest seats in the House of Representatives. Bayan Muna and Akbayan have bona fide credentials to work their way into Congress under the umbrella of the party-list system, and they represent social groups that have been shut out of representation in the legislature since 1946.

But their chances are being diminished by what Sen. Rodolfo Biazon calls the "infiltration through the backdoor" of hordes of traditional office-seekers, including the stragglers of the disgraced Estrada regime, and lobby groups clambering on the bandwagon of so-called parties and political groups. These groups mangle beyond recognition the meaning of "marginalized and under-represented" sectors. The Commission on Elections is largely to blame for opening the floodgates of the party list to this invasion. If there's anything that the distortion of the party-list system tells us, it is that the Left and similarly oriented social groups face a tough struggle against conservatism to gain entry into the parliamentary arena.

American ugly

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

THIS guy Jim Weir is single-handedly bringing back the image of the Ugly American. George W. Bush is giving him a hand.

So this guy Weir, husband to Kathy Weir, Citibank's chief resident Caucasian, goes berserk at the sight of strangers sipping his wine and using his phone line. And he goes ballistic, according to the offended parties, members of a band called CompanY, who were hired to perform at a recent bash at the Weirs.

Alas, what they got was a bashing at the Weirds.

To give Jimmy the benefit of the doubt, I would be annoyed too, if the sipping and phoning were unauthorized and excessive. But, as they say, it's in the way one does or says things. The story goes Weir risked severing his carotid vein and bursting his lungs in venting his ire. And a bad time was had by all.

My point here is really not about interrupted dining or illicit phoning. Not about spilled wine or a spoiled time. Not about stinking carpets or banking profits, as Jimmy Boy apparently inquired whether the musicians knew anything about. The point is not about Jimmy's wine but, rather, about Jimmy's whine.

Americans are whiners. They're spoiled brats and insufferable braggarts. Because America is, well, America, they expect to be treated like bosses all the time. They think because America is America, they are visiting potentates abroad and they own the world.

America is, indeed, America, the center of the world and undisputed leader of global politics and the global economy. America leads and everybody follows. And so Americans like to be treated accordingly, they expect people to follow their orders, cater to their desires, bow to their wishes, kowtow to their whims.

Remember the consul at the US Embassy here who gave a visa applicant, an academic, a pop quiz on Literature? I suspect the visa processor was not really interested in verifying the applicant's credentials as her application contained those. The consul was really bragging, wanting to put down the applicant because she was a Filipino, somebody "inferior." That is the insolence of power. That is American ugly.

The American president, Mr. Bush is, likewise, behaving true to form. In the beginning of the incident involving the collision of a US spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet, Bush "demanded" the immediate return of the crash-landed US plane's crew.

There were no ifs, ands or buts in Bush's initial rhetoric, the Americans were to be released quickly. But when China showed backbone, Bush backed off and became more conciliatory. But still, when China in turn demanded a US apology for the incident, Bush declined to oblige. At this writing, the two giant nations are at an impasse. Who will blink first? Let's wait and see (if nothing has already happened when this commentary sees print).

But let's reverse the situation. Suppose a Chinese, Russian or Cuban spy plane was somehow down in US territory. Do you think the United States would be so generous and accommodating as to put the foreign spies on the next flight home? How long before the United States let go of that poor Cuban youngster, Elian Gonzales, who survived a raft wreck as he and his mother sought to migrate to America?

President Bush's initially hard-line attitude in the standoff with China is typically American. Americans like to bluff their way around. It comes naturally for them to be demanding, often with coarse language accompanying their actions.

If Filipino conservatives think the controversial film, "Live Show," is liberally peppered with common, everyday expletives, they should listen to a typical American conversation. Americans like to punctuate their conversations with words like "sh-t," "f-ck," and similar oral ejaculations. But if you tell them with a non-confrontational, but firm, voice that you're not accustomed to such language, they will generally desist from being so offensive.

The French statesman, Georges Clemenceau, described America as "the only nation in history which miraculously has gone directly from barbarism to degeneration without the usual interval of civilization."

The irony of the United States is that it is considered as heaven by the anxious would-be immigrants that line up every day in front of US embassies all over the world. That's because there's opportunity to make money there, if that's one's ambition. The US economy is a megamarket for practically everything, from the useful to the useless to the nonsensical. From the precious, like education, to the pernicious, like drugs. From the ennobling, like the arts, to the disabling, like vice of all sorts.

And America is the land of invention and adaptation. Because there's money to reward the brain and brawn of people with initiative, industry and vision. And America does what it does with great fanfare to let the whole world know what it does when it does it. America is the land of hope and hype.

"America is the greatest of opportunities and the worst of influences," lamented the philosopher George Santayana.

Americans and other foreigners are bad influences ("BI" in the argot of today's youth) on Filipinos. Look at the servants of expatriates who behave like their bosses, Filipino drivers who swish about as if they're expats too.

But for better or worse, America and Americans will be around for a while longer. To be candid, that is not an unwelcome fact in geopolitical reality. The United States acts like a counterweight to other ambitious nations that occasionally dabble in colonialistic endeavors. Russia remains ambitious of reviving its sphere of influence in Europe and Central Asia. Japan may have renounced militarism as a national policy, but it may have other ideas in the economic arena (although currently that country in the economic doldrums). And who knows what inscrutable China, the formerly sleeping, now awakening, giant has in mind.

So today we and the world have to deal with loud, insolent, boorish, spoiled Americans. Isn't that enough to make you curse? But don't, it's Holy Week.

Leandro V. Coronel, who lived in Washington, D.C. from 1969 to 1997, now lives and writes here.

Face of Christ

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A COUPLE of weeks ago, our front page carried a photograph with the caption, "Would you pray to this man?" The caption went on to say: "Using the skull of a man buried in Jerusalem 2000 years ago, experts recently came up with this computer-generated image of what Jesus Christ may have looked like. The British Broadcasting Corp. used this image in its series 'Son of God.'"

The picture came out as well in the April 9 issue of Newsweek, along with several other pictures of Christ over the years, as artists have interpreted it. A couple of them the Catholic Church may find deeply sacrilegious. One portrays Christ as a nude woman presiding over the Last Supper—the title is even more irreverent, "Yo Mama's Last Supper"—while another, drawing inspiration from St. Augustine's thesis that humans "are born among feces and urine," immerses the crucified Christ in urine.

Among the pictures, only the outline of a face that appears in the Shroud of Turin and the digital reconstruction of a 2000-year-old skull bear any resemblance to the historical Christ. The digital Christ is a revelation. It shows a disheveled man, with thick curly hair, full beard and penetrating eyes. He is dark-skinned and gazes at the world intently—some might even say, a little madly.

The question isn't just, "Would you pray to this man?" It is, "Would you trust this man?" You saw him at your door one day, saying all sorts of wild things, such as you should not be too quick to judge other people and you should love the neighbor who keeps dumping garbage into your yard, would you not turn him on his heels? Indeed, you saw him at your door one day, speaking in riddles, telling you to not cast the first stone at sinners and to give your other cheek to the fellow who slaps you on one, would you not set the dog on him?

The picture subverts our long-held image of what Jesus Christ looks like, an image we carry from childhood. That image appears in Newsweek as well, a painting done by Warner Sallman in 1941, showing a glowing Christ, locks of hair cascading neatly down his shoulders, a full but well-trimmed beard jutting out of his jaw. He is blond and blue eyed.

The last is the first thing the digital—and more faithfully rendered—Christ subverts, our image of him as a WASP. I am glad that it does. It sets the record straight on Christ's origins. He was, as Malcolm X used to say, not your average white guy but your very colored person. He was a Jew, which by itself is enough to convince you God works in truly mysterious ways. He was born to working-class parents, moreover, a carpenter and a housewife, and wandered under the hot desert sun during the last three years of his life, preaching to fishermen, prostitutes and thieves, which could not have improved his complexion, the kind the skin whiteners that are very popular in this country promise to produce.

Jesus Christ does not look like Jeffrey Hunter, he looks like Topol. Or since Topol is in fact not a Jew, though he portrayed Tevye in "Fiddler on a Roof," but a Syrian (supremely ironically, he would go back to Syria to help fight Israel in the Yom Kippur War of the early 1970s), he looks like any of the Arabs that get to be portrayed as terrorists in Hollywood movies. It should help mightily to disabuse us of our own notions of the pecking order in divine life, which mirrors the secular one, Aryans being at the top of the totem pole. Near where I live, in Pag-asa, a house (it used to be one, it is now a modest building, pointing to the prosperity of its business) still makes statues of Jesus Christ and the saints with sharp noses, aquiline features and white skins. I've always been tempted to persuade them to try to make them look like Filipinos—it hews closer to historical reality. Armed with this new picture, I might yet do it.

But more than this, I'm glad the digital Christ looks like a plain-looking and troubled soul. It says something profound about the nature of divinity, truth and wisdom. Which is that you will rarely see them by looking up at heaven, you will often see them by looking straight ahead at earth, or even downwards at hell. You will not see them in someone walking around with a halo, or unearthly glow, or a neon sign that says, "INRI," or "In this fellow reside divinity, truth and wisdom, heed him." You will see them in someone who defends his truth amid a tide of bigotry, who rises to do what is right despite its perils, who does extraordinary things in ordinary times and less than ordinary conditions of life. You will not see them in people who, radiating power and authority, promise to work the miracle of turning hell into heaven, who are the politicians. You will see them in people who have actually wrought the miracle of ousting a tyrant, who were the folk that flocked to Edsa.

If you were one of the innkeepers in Jerusalem, at the time of year when the cold desert winds were blowing and paying customers huddled in your place making cheer and making you rich, would you have allowed an impoverished *karpentero* and his *gusgusin* wife to make a maternity ward of your inn? You would, if you saw a halo around their heads and heard God's voice booming from the heavens. Which neither Joseph nor Mary wore, and which God in his infinite wisdom did not send. I've always thought it was truly wise of the Three Kings, or Three Wise Men—you wonder if they'll ever get to reconstruct their faces too digitally—to have espied divinity in a mangy manger where the animals congregated, which was where Christ was born.

And if you were a Jew who lived in fear of a tyrannical foreign power, a local rebellion and fanatical religious officials, would you not have cried for the head too of this troublemaker, Christ, who had been going around criticizing all of the above? Would you not have felt he was inviting harm to yourself and your loved ones by suggesting he represented you? Would you not have been compelled to disown him? And when he was hanging on the cross like a common thief, along with a couple of other common thieves, and babbling about like a madman in the throes of pain and death, would you not have felt justified in what you did? I've always thought too it was sublimely wise of the first Christians to have espied divinity in those abject conditions and turned defeat into victory, death into life, burial into resurrection.

"What if God was one of us?" Joan Osborne asked in a song that became a monster hit a couple of years ago, with most people not particularly minding its lyrics. Good question.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia. com

Long detention of US plane crew may hurt ties

NEWS ANALYSIS

Oliver Knox

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said Monday that "it is now time" for Beijing to release the crew of a downed US spy plane and warned that further delays could damage already strained Sino-US ties.

"It is now time for our troops to come home so that our relationship does not become damaged," he said, joining a growing chorus of US frustration over round-the-clock talks that had yet to win freedom for the 24 crew members.

"Every day that goes by increases the potential that our relations with China could be damaged," said Bush, who flanked by his full cabinet, including US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"All of us around this table understand diplomacy takes time. But there is a point, the longer it goes, there's a point at which our relations with China could become damaged," he said as the crew spent their ninth day in captivity.

The US president said diplomats were working "behind the scenes" to end the dispute, the most serious since Bush took office on Jan. 20, but publicly neither side seemed to budge from entrenched positions.

Beijing wants a full apology for the April 1 collision between the US aircraft and a Chinese fighter, which led the surveillance plane to make an emergency landing in southern China and the jet to crash into the sea.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer on Monday reiterated Washington's steadfast refusal to go beyond expressions of "regret" for the loss of the Chinese pilot offered publicly by Bush and Powell.

"Powell said yesterday, (national security advisor) Condoleezza Rice said yesterday, there won't be an apology," even if analysis of the incident showed the US crew had made mistakes, said Fleischer.

> The US president said diplomats were working 'behind the scenes' to end the dispute, the most serious since Bush took office on Jan. 20

The 21 men and three women, held on Hainan island, "are eager to get home," according to a senior US State Department official.

Bush said he had spoken to Brigadier General Neal Sealock after "a good visit" with the entire crew, and that the US military attaché had told him "their spirits are very high."

The president suggested there was little more Washington could do to win their release, saying "we're working behind the scenes, we've got every diplomatic channel open, we're in discussions with the Chinese."

But Fleischer signaled a toughening stance that could affect overall Sino-US ties, telling reporters it was too early to say whether Washington would end support for Beijing's accession to the World Trade Organization but "the longer it goes on the more relevant those questions will become."

Those comments came amid rising anti-Chinese sentiment in the US Congress, which voted last year to grant Chinese goods the same low-tariff access to US markets as imports from virtually every other nation.

But with China's WTO membership still pending, some US lawmakers are warning the standoff could weigh on a vote later this year on a 12-month extension of Normal Trade Relations privileges.

"I wouldn't say they're going to be taken away, but I know I'm not as interested in supporting normal trade relations as I was because of this," Republican Representative Henry Hyde told ABC television Monday.

Hyde, chair of the House International Relations Committee, said other possible pressure points included China's desire to host the 2008 Olympics.

Powell told CBS television Sunday that "serious damage is now starting to be done" to the bilateral relationship and warned that he was hearing resistance to extending China trade privileges from lawmakers and hearing concerns from executives who do business in China. *AFP*

'Live Show' and 'Chocolat'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR ALL those seeking perspective and understanding of the issues underlying the latest cause célèbre—the banning of the film "Live Show" and the resignation of MTRCB Chair Nick Tiongson—I heartily recommend a viewing of the movie "Chocolat."

"Chocolat" has been described as a "sweet fable," so what could it possibly have to do with a local film that explores the seamy underside of the sex industry? Plenty, it turns out. "Live Show" tells the stories of men and women live sex performers, and the pressures that drive them to join and stay in this most despised of sex occupations. "Chocolat," on the other hand, tells the story of a town in the grip of a gentle but still authoritarian hand, where hypocrisy marks all social relations, and where anything and anyone new, different and unfamiliar is deemed a threat to a cherished way of life.

The movie opens with two figures clad in red capes, a woman and her daughter, making their way through the empty streets of a town in the French countryside. The pair has come to open a chocolate shop, a decision that meets with much condemnation as it is the middle of Lent, a time for sacrifice and deprivation, not for such decadent pleasures as chocolate.

The Comte, who acts as both mayor and moral guardian of the town, is particularly incensed since the shop soon attracts loyal customers. It turns out that our chocolate-maker has the uncanny gift of discerning peoples' deepest desires—her landlady's yearning for her estranged family, a battered wife's longing for independence, an old bachelor's secret love.

Relations between the Comte, and the town's establishment on one side, and the chocolate-maker and her friends on the other, are further strained when a group of Irish "gypsies" tie up their vessels along the riverside. Outsiders really light the fuse of the Comte's paranoia, and he launches a "campaign against immorality," to get back at both the chocolate-maker and the strangers.

* * *

A FAVORITE story between the mother and daughter in the chocolate shop is how the mother's parents met. Her father, a pharmaceutical researcher, travels to South America where he succumbs to the Intoxication of cocoa. He falls in love with and marries a member of a tribe of "cocoa missionaries," who travel from settlement to settlement, teaching the populace how to prepare different cocoa delicacies.

The man brings home his wife to France, only to lose her to the "clever north wind," which summons her to obey her tribe's mission to preach the chocolate gospel. Thus it was that travelling from town to town, to teach people the pleasures of chocolate, became a way of life for mother and daughter, and her granddaughter after her.

But life on the road can get tiring and lonely, too, and for the young girl, the pleasures of transience are increasingly thinning.

Will mother and daughter find their place among friends in their adopted hometown? Will the leader of the Irish vagabonds succeed in winning the mother's heart? Will the battered wife manage to build her own life away from her abusive husband? Will the cantankerous landlady reconcile with her daughter and grandson? Remarkable is the movie's ability to make us care about these people, and to draw us into the issues surrounding their relations.

* * *

"CHOCOLAT" is about more than small town life in turn-of-the-century France, or about the noblesse oblige of rural aristocracy, the aphrodisiac qualities of chocolate, or even Church-State relations in a microcosm.

If the chocolate shop owner (played with amazing subtlety by Juliet Binoche) represents the forces of the native, intuitive and unfettered, the Comte personifies authority, self-righteousness, repression and denial. Denial of oneself and one's feelings, the movie says, is ultimately self-destructive. The Comte, for instance, keeps up the pretence that his estranged wife is merely away on an extended vacation in Italy, fearing that the breakdown of his marriage might undermine his standing as the town's civil and moral authority.

But in an Easter festival the townsfolk and visitors come to an acceptance of themselves and each other.

For now, let the young parish priest phrase the movie's most succinct lesson. "From this day on," he says, "let us not measure our goodness by what we resist, what we deny ourselves and who we exclude. Rather, let us measure our goodness by what we embrace, what we create, and who we include."

* * *

"LIVE SHOW," and its makers, are not outsiders seeking new cinematic visions. Mother Lily Monteverde, the producer, is certainly the ultimate movie insider. But in a way, "Live Show," and the people whose stories it seeks to tell, can be likened to the mother-daughter pair of chocolatiers. For toreros and toreras are the ultimate outcasts of "decent" society, repelling even their neighbors in the city's slums, because their work is deemed the "lowest of the low."

And when the "moral guardians" of our society, ranging from Church officials, to religious busybodies and even political leaders, succeeded in banning the exhibition of "Live Show," was it not akin to shutting down the chocolate shop and burning the gypsy boats? As "Chocolat" shows, the truth does set us free. The Comte is liberated from the shackles of social expectations when he finally admits his own weakness and humanity. And the town becomes finally a truly hospitable and welcoming place.

A final note. Something must be said about the links being made between the "Live Show" controversy and the exposé by director Marilou Diaz Abaya of exploitation in the film industry. The impression given is that to support freedom of expression is to condone and even encourage the exploitative practices of the industry. But that is not so, for one can fight for both the freedom of artists and communicators, as well as the protection of those most vulnerable to exploitation. In fact, to fight for one is to fight for the other.

Filipino surnames and their sense

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

CHRISTMAS and Easter are the two high points of the Roman Catholic calendar which explains why some people in 1849 were quite happy to choose the surnames Pascua, Pasco, Navidad, Natividad and Aguinaldo. Others, however ,were consigned to year-round Lent with the name Cuadragesima or Cuaresma. Those inclined to religion could also take the holy cross as in Crux or Cruz (as in Tom Cruz), Cruzada (Crusade), Sacramento, Sacramenta, Sacro, Sacristia and Sacristan. We hardly stop to think about our surnames—not the Spanish ones like Ocampo, Guerrero, Jimenez, Fernandez, Reyes, etc.—but those surnames that came from indigenous words.

Imagine fair-skinned Filipinos today walking around with surnames like: Negre, Negrilla, Negrete, Negrillo, Negrito, or Negros. Imagine being called Ngipin (tooth) or Gahasa (rape)? What about surnames that are so suggestive they could pass as titles for sexy films today?: Macahiya (shy), Mainit (hot), Maitim (dark), Mailap (shy), Malapot (thick), Malaqui (big), Malati (small), Malupit (cruel), Quipot (narrow), Quisquisan (grinding), Malibog (horny), Dotdot (puncture), Tohog, Tohogan (to string together). I was even more surprised to find surnames like Muta (mote) and Colangot (snot) on the list. Why were these names included? Did the friars who helped compile the Catalogo de Apellidos do this on purpose to shame Filipinos?

There were names for everybody, but as the Catalogo de Apellidos was arranged alphabetically, certain letters went to certain provinces resulting in towns where all the surnames began with the same letter. People then were not as mobile as we are in this age of cars, planes and fast seacraft. One needed a passport to move from one province to another. At one time you could guess the province of a complete stranger by the first letter of his or her surname. For example, most of the "A" surnames were distributed in Bicol. In these places you had to be early or have some clout to get a good surname otherwise you could be stuck with names like: Abaca, Abangan, Abobot, Abuso or Absurdo. I don't know which province and towns got letter "B" but I wouldn't want to get: Babuy/Baboy (pig), Baca (mad cow), Balbon (hairy), Balbas (beard), or Bangcay (corpse). On the other hand, a Spanish historian, Montero y Vidal, writing in the 19th century Philippines noted these "one-letter surname-towns" and was shocked to find illustrious Spanish surnames like Alba, Medinacelli and Osuna carried by mountain people!

Our national hero, when he was a student at the Ateneo, once thought he was illegitimate because his entire family signed themselves "Mercado" while he was "Rizal" or "Mercado Rizal" or "Rizal Mercado." When the list of surnames was given out in Laguna in 1849, Rizal's ancestor chose the surname "Risal" (later stylized to Rizal) from the list. Being tillers of the land, "Risal"(from *ricial*) was appropriate because it means "green fields." I guess the letter "M" was sent to their town and forced Rizal's grandfather to take Mercado or "market." Juan Luna, the painter, would sometimes sign his paintings with the two pre-colonial letters that read "Bulan" which was Ilocano for moon or Luna.

Surnames are everyday things we see but rarely notice them unless some hapless being was given: Vulgar, Vulgarizado, Cupal (foreskin), Otong (nipple), Tanga, Gago, Otot (fart), Utut, Ututan, Ungas, Ung-oy (monkey), Dilis, Dilangbaca (cow tongue), Dilangusa (deer's tongue), or Dilangbutiqui (lizard's tongue). I wonder why there was no surname equivalent for the popular ornamental plant "mother-in-law's tongue" which is long, green and sharp.

Those that have the prefix "maca" are quite common in Pampanga and seem to be pre-colonial rather than Spanish surnames. Of course, the foremost Pampanga surname these days is Macapagal. Reflecting on the origin and meaning of these surnames I think that these described certain qualities of pre-colonial warriors. Macapagal could describe a tireless warrior who exhausted the enemy; Macabuag or Macaspac means destroyer; Macatangay and Mandurucut, Macasulut could mean a snatcher; Macaratang is someone who arrives on time; Macapunit, someone who tears enemies apart; and Macasaquit, someone harmful.

The same can be said of surnames that have the pre-fix "dima" these are also qualities of ancient Filipino warriors: Dimatacot (fearless); Dimabayaran (cannot be bribed); Dimatangal (indispensable); Dimaculangan (never short of anything); Dimalanta (tireless); Dimabasa (cannot be read or anticipate); Dimarucut (cannot be snatched); Dimaraanan (unpassable); Dimapiguilpiguil (cannot be controlled); Dimapaui (cannot be sent home); Dimacuja (cannot be taken); Dimaano (cannot be touched); Dimasuay (cannot be scolded); Dimagiba (cannot be broken); Dimapalitan (cannot be changed); and Dimasacupan (invincible).

When I am introduced to people abroad, some people get confused by my Spanish surname and Oriental features. I wonder what my life would be if my ancestor kept his pre-colonial Pampanga surname. Unfortunately, he could not claim to be a pre-colonial noble or warrior so he chose a Spanish surname to get more class in a colonial world. Now that's real colonial mentality branded on me.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The Left: Not only talks, but a debate needed

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

THE INQUIRER'S photo Monday of National Democratic Front leader, former newsman Antonio Zumel, frail-looking and in a wheelchair as he arrived from the Netherlands, somehow tugs at one's heart.

Here is a man who had spent two decades first in underground safe houses, where windows for security reasons were closed most of the time, and then in some remote jungle infested with mosquitoes and leeches. Then it would be one of the earliest imperialist nations and now, one of the most advanced capitalist economies, the Netherlands, which would give Zumel a haven, and a chance to recuperate from all his years of hardship.

If he had not chosen that path, Zumel could have been, well, even publisher of this newspaper or even a powerful columnist in the style of Amando Doronila or Max Soliven, who regularly send shivers down the elite's spines.

We of the younger generation of journalists during martial law saw Zumel and another ex-newsman, ex-NDF leader Satur Ocampo, as larger-than-life heroes who not only defied a dictatorship but boldly embraced an ideology, Marxism, that promised to create a new social order.

For many of my former comrades, it wasn't really the communist chief ideologue, Jose Ma. Sison, who was persuasive. It was the likes of renegade Scout Ranger Lt. Victor Corpuz, and the two newsmen—Zumel and Ocampo—who convinced them that here was a cause to fight for. After all, Corpuz was in the belly of the enemy, saw how depraved it was and courageously rebelled against it. Zumel and Ocampo in their work as newsmen, saw up close how exploitative capitalism and the ruling-class state were, and decided to devote their lives fighting these.

But that was three decades ago, a lifetime it seems.

The country has moved on, the Marcos dictatorship ended in 1986. The world has also moved on. Deng's "To be Rich is Glorious" has long replaced Mao's "Serve the People." The Great Helmsman had proven to be not a socialist god, but China's 20th century emperor, and with all the ruthlessness and depravity of the ancient Chinese rulers. The Communist Youth League's headquarters in Beijing is now a tourist hotel. Socialist dictatorships had proven to be disasters everywhere in the world. Albania—which many of us thought was the quaint socialist heaven in the picturesque European foothills—turned out to be as poor as any Asian or African undeveloped country, and is now even caught up in ethnic strife. Everyone's just waiting for Fidel Castro to pass away before Cuba becomes the newest Caribbean resort complex.

Vietnam's Workers' Party—which many in the mid-1970s, thought would be raising the flame of world socialist revolution after the Chinese junked it—turned out to be what it has been for centuries: a party of nationalists still in search of an economic and political system.

Whatever the weaknesses of the East Asian Miracle are, and there are many, its most important lesson was that for all its anti-poor drawbacks, mankind has yet to invent a better economic system than one grounded on free enterprise, which unleashes, yes, individuals greed, but also their creativity. The most recent book of the world's greatest economist, Amartya Sen—in his youth a Marxist, who devoted almost his entire academic career in studying the factors creating poverty—proved a simple thing: with democracy, the world's worst famines which killed millions wouldn't have occurred.

But the Philippine Left did make a mark in the country. "*Masa*" wasn't a Filipino word at all before the Communist Party's translators of Mao's Little Red Book invented it. And it was the Left's unrelenting focus on the oppression of the poor, that had made poverty alleviation a big part of the national consciousness since the 1980s.

The strength and militancy of unions and farmers' organizations, the growth of NGOs, feminism, human rights groups, nationalist art and culture, street demonstrations, why, even "People Power"—all these wouldn't be the vibrant institutions and values that they are now without the Left. Drop your anti-Red bias for a moment: we owe all these to the Communist Party and its organizations.

But these contributions were at a huge cost. Guerrilla zones and even prototypes of Red Bases had their moments of glory. But they turned out to be battlefields where hundreds of thousands, including women and children, lost their lives since the 1970s. The country lost many in the young, idealistic generation who would have been our new type of political leaders now, who could have changed this country.

Not all were killed in firefights with government troopers or by the military's death squads. Many died of illnesses after decades of hardship, as aging NPA guerrillas in some forgotten jungle. Like religious millenarians, they had waited, as many still do, through most of their adult life, for the "strategic offensive," when the rural-based people's army will encircle the cities.

And then many were tortured and killed by their own comrades in a paranoia that possessed the Left in the 1980s, and created its own horrible killing fields that rivaled the brutality of any government death squad. A few, those in the urban guerrilla groups, lost faith and degenerated into criminals, to be killed later by their military allies or by their own comrades.

Yes, the talks with the NDF could be our country's biggest breakthrough in working for a lasting peace. But these cannot only be talks or even just a dialogue.

There should be a national debate, though a constructive one done in brotherhood and patriotism. We have spent three decades dissecting the evils of mainstream society. It is time though to dissect the weaknesses of the alternative. There are many points to such a debate, among which could be the following:

(1) In this day and age, is the communist ideal of a single-party rule, acquired through force, still viable? Are we willing to pay the huge costs of such an undertaking—revolution, the inevitable counterrevolution, the inevitable ruthless dictatorship necessary to stop counter-revolutionaries?

(2) What form of representative democracy does the NDF really want?

(3) What exactly—beyond the motherhood anti-this, anti-that statements—is the economic system the NDF would want to be put in place?

(4) What would be the role, acceptable to most Filipinos, of the New People's Army, if ever a political settlement is reached? What role could the NDF and its organizations play in finally developing this unlucky country in the 21st century?

At the end of the day though, it would be the Left's rank and file—its own *masa*—who would have to be convinced, helped by an open-arms, amnesty program of the type Thailand undertook in the 1970s, that the age of armed uprisings has long gone, that the time for peace has come. Ask Corpuz, now the military intelligence chief, and even Ocampo, now a party-list candidate, about it.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

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LETTERS

Buenaventura only did as any Bangko Sentral head would

GENERALLY I agree wholeheartedly with your editorials, but I was a bit surprised at your editorial last March 10.

The international community found it very reassuring that the Philippines twice had a major change in government yet maintained a continuity of the central bank governorship. Critical to sending a message that the stability of the banking system is above politics.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor did recognize that the fall of the peso was being caused primarily by political uncertainties, and quotes to this effect were all over the papers from November last year to early January of this year. He reinforced that point (i.e., political uncertainties generated by former President Estrada) in a meeting I had with him some time in early December. The high US interest rates and the strong dollar were just an added factor. Obviously, he fell short of saying Mr. Estrada was the problem. But most bankers, businessmen and analysts understood that this was what the Bangko Sentral governor was saying and that it was improper for him to further elucidate on the issue.

Surely the very fact that Rafael Buenaventura considered resigning itself indicates he was unhappy with the leadership of Mr. Estrada. He decided to stay on not for personal loyalty to Estrada, but because he recognized that continuity and stability (as expressed by its leadership) was critical in a time of crisis. And unlike other Cabinet secretaries, his resignation would send an unsettling message to the international financial community.

When the crisis first occurred, he maintained a tight money supply to stabilize the peso. But he eventually realized that under the situation obtaining then, any economic solution wouldn't work and made the tough decision to leave it to market forces even when the peso was under severe attack in January.

The numbers show it. From a peak of about 21 percent in mid-November, the average prime lending rate was down to 17 percent in mid-January; the 91-day T-bill rate also fell from about 17 percent to 12 percent in the same period. At $15 billion in December, the gross international reserves were almost unchanged from September. The Bangko Sentral spent not more than $400 million (against the $2 billion spent in July 1997) to defend the peso during the fourth quarter of 2000.

Buenaventura can't be forced to resign just because he allowed interest rates to rise briefly. Just like all other Bangko Sentral governors before him, he felt it was the best course of action to avoid a downward spiral of the currency that could precipitate an economic collapse. Any Bangko Sentral governor faced with a similar dilemma would have adopted the same approach. To his credit, he did better than his predecessors as interest rates didn't rise as much (it went as high as 27 percent during the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis; it fared much worse in 1984-85 and 1990-91), they were on a downtrend after November, and the economy didn't collapse.

His not being like Alan Greenspan can't be a basis for ousting him. I don't think there is any central banker in the world today who can match the brilliance and stature of Greenspan, so if this is the argument, very few would be fit to become central bank heads. And in terms of development, the fledgling Philippine central bank (it became an independent central monetary authority only in 1993) can't be compared with the US Federal Reserve Board.

With him staying on, and the fact that he's not an appointee of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the country can show the world that it respects the continuity of leadership and independence of the Bangko Sentral.—**PETER L. WALLACE, president, The Economist Intelligence Unit, 14th Floor, Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City**

Journalists protest mayor's actions

THE OLONGAPO-SUBIC chapter of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) condemns in the strongest terms the harassment of our colleague, Bet Marcelo of the INQUIRER, done by no less than Olongapo City Mayor Katherine H. Gordon.

We also express our deep concern over the safety of other practicing journalists in the city who have experienced the same harassment and humiliation at the hands of local officials and rabid supporters of Mayor Gordon.

In a memo sent to her editors, Marcelo narrated how she was harassed and prevented from entering the Subic Bay Freeport Zone on March 8 by people who barricaded the freeport. Mayor Gordon, who was there with her supporters, reportedly turned to the crowd and shouted, "*Eto si* Bet Marcelo *ng* INQUIRER, *sinasabi mga bayaran daw kayo!*"

According to Marcelo, she feared for the safety of her family while she was harassed. Her daughter, who was with her in a jeep, "dropped her head on my chest, apparently scared by the commotion and the sight of so many people gathered around us who were shouting." At about that time, someone was already trying to open the rear door of the jeep.

Marcelo added in her memo that "that kind of pronouncement from Mayor Gordon before that crowd was a death sentence." Only the timely intercession of Olongapo City information officer Mike Pusing spared Marcelo from being lynched by the mob agitated by no less than the city mayor.

Earlier that day, the same people, this time escorted by City Vice Mayor Cynthia Cajudo, forced their way into a radio station and harassed a group of radio broadcasters of radio station dwHL led by Tino Dimaano who also writes for the national daily, Today.

The crowd also prevented two other members of the local media, Betty Bendicion, Johnny Reblando and Bert Amoroso, photographer of Diario Uno, from entering the freeport.

A day after, Jen Velarmino of the Philippine Star and Miranda de Quiros of ABS-CBN News Channel (and daughter of INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros), were also subjected to verbal abuse by Mayor Gordon. Ironically, this was the time when Mayor Gordon was apologizing to Marcelo for her earlier misconduct.

The local chapter of the NUJP views these incidents with grave concern and vows to close ranks with other media organizations and call on the editors of national dailies to support local correspondents and other media workers in preventing the Gordons and those who have the power and influence from interfering with the search for and reporting of truth.

We call on all practicing journalists to be true to their calling, remain vigilant and unite to defeat all attempts to curtail our right to freedom of expression.—**ANSBERT JOAQUIN, president, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines-Subic Chapter, Olongapo City**

Consistency in one's criticism

THIS is in reaction to the April 2 Analysis ("High intensity political action over 'lewd' film") by Amando Doronila.

We are surprised at the level of name-calling our statement on the banning of "Live Show" has elicited from Doronila, and also appalled by his presumption that only his explanation of the ban has any validity. Yet he himself describes as fanatics those who have only a "mono" explanation of events.

Doronila's name-calling is in fact distinguished by being so obviously applicable to his own views. He derides the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) for being "self-appointed," while forgetting that under his definition he too is as "self-appointed" as every other commentator in the media, because no one ever appointed or elected him to pass judgment on everyone else, the CMFR included.

In the end, the only appointment anyone of us can claim is that bestowed upon us by citizenship in a purportedly free society. That is why the CMFR has never claimed to have the final word on anything; it does not fancy itself a Supreme Court for the media, as Doronila claims. It certainly does not claim to have any right superior to the ordinary citizen's. What it does claim is the same right that 75 million Filipinos have—the right to express its opinion on the area of its interest, namely the media, the practice of which has everything to do with free expression and the political, cultural and economic state of society.

Doronila claims that by citing the Constitution, the CMFR "is sounding like Joseph Estrada and Rene Saguisag." Does anyone who cites the Constitution now deserve that badge of infamy? If so, then the Macapagal administration should be equally admonished for sounding like Estrada et al. Its case for its legitimacy, lest Doronila has so soon forgotten, was after all based on the same Constitution. Because it claims constitutionality as the basis of its legitimacy, it invites evaluation on the basis of those claims, which is what the CMFR did in its statement.

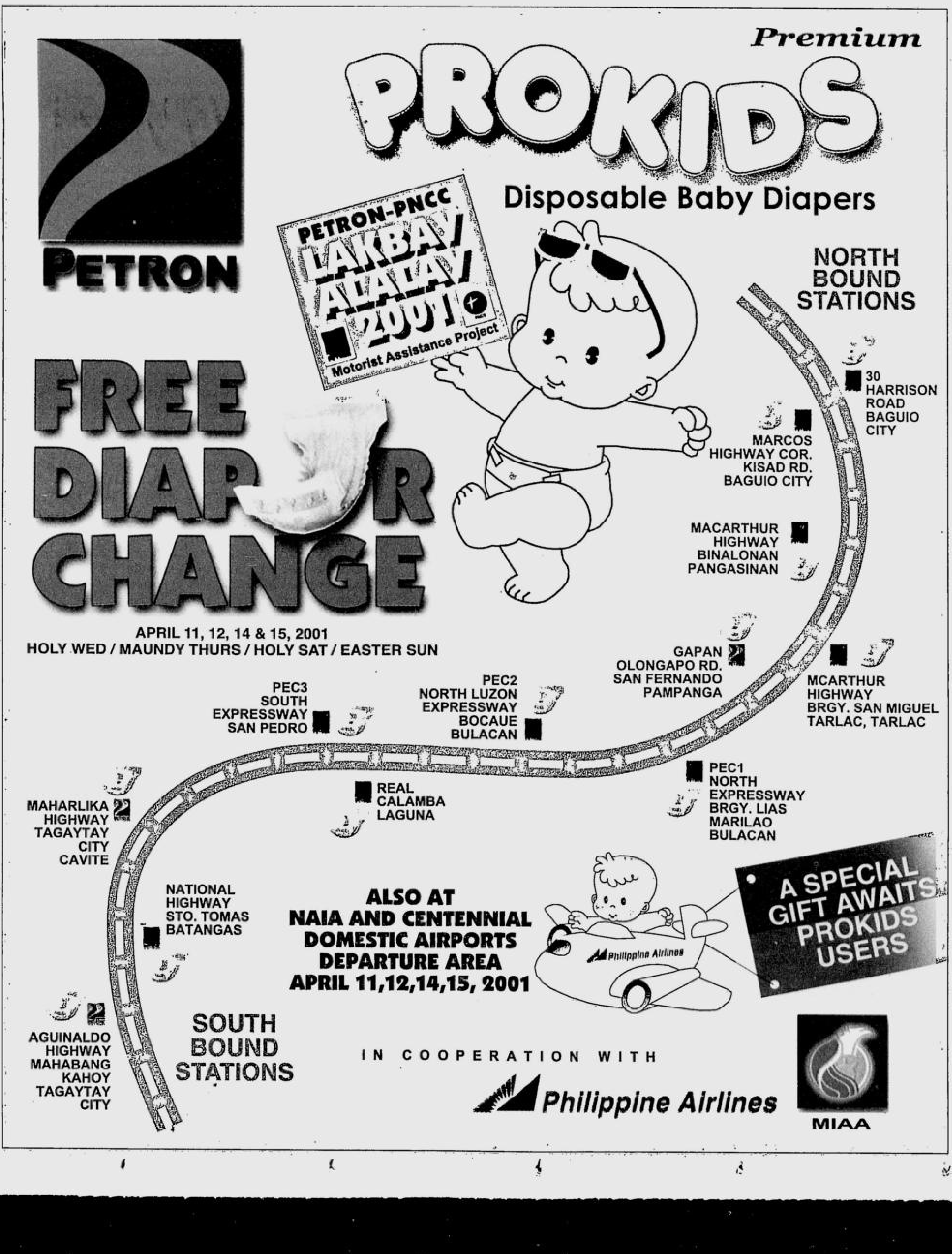
Doronila also argues for consistency. He asks why the CMFR and other civil society groups did not protest Jaime Cardinal Sin's pastoral letter urging the ouster of Estrada but are protesting now his intervention in the "Live Show" case. The CMFR did not protest Cardinal Sin's demand for the ouster of Estrada because like everyone else, he is entitled to his opinion and entitled to convince others of it. If he had issued a pastoral letter on "Live Show," argued that it is pornographic and urged people not to see it; if he had gone on various forums including at the Edsa Shrine to ask moviegoers to boycott the film, neither the CMFR nor anyone else would have had cause to complain.

This point has been repeatedly made, and the statements of various groups have inevitably touched on it because those supportive of the ban on "Live Show" cannot seem to make a distinction between expressing an opinion and using State power to enforce those opinions. Some of those statements are in the Internet and are available even to Doronila.

We reiterate that when a prince of the Church summons a public official to his palace, berates him and then backs his demand for his resignation with presidential action, he has gone beyond the legitimate expression of the opinions to which he is entitled. But Doronila should note that the CMFR does not blame Cardinal Sin for so easily succeeding in getting the State to do as he wishes. It is the wisdom of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's decision that—without name-calling or rancor—we suggested she should examine for its implications, because it was based on the views of only one among her many constituencies.

Was that decision, as suggested by Doronila, based on President Macapagal's own views? If it was, it would raise the question of how far a chief executive's personal views can prevail over the rest of society's in a democracy—where a public official's decisions are expected to reflect the wishes of his or her constituencies.

Doronila argues for the right of the Church and the military to have a say in the Macapagal administration, but inveighs against the right of the CMFR and the other civil society groups involved in the broad coalition that ousted Estrada to express their opinions on an issue of public concern. Aside from implying that the Church and the military are more equal than others, Doronila would deny Ms Macapagal's other allies and constituencies the rights he would grant in abundance to those institutions. One would have wished for a little more of the same consistency on his part that he expects of others.—**LUIS V. TEODORO, associate director, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, Ateneo Professional Schools, 130 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City**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Hornbostel, one of us

THIS is a tribute to Earl Hornbostel, one of the American residents who have stayed longest in the Philippines. He passed away last March 9 at the age of 85.

Hornbostel was the son of a Harvard-educated Marine Corps officer. In 1928 his family moved to Manila. He worked for the military in the days before the war and then clandestinely labored to help the military by building secret radios inside the internee compound at the University of Sto. Tomas.

Around his time, Hornbostel began his lifelong interest in radios. He built his first receiver at the age of 13, and developed his passion by entering the University of the Philippines as an electrical engineering student.

There he began to dabble in amateur radio. Internee leader Fred Stevens calls Hornbostel "the best known radio technician in the islands." He was active and popular within the ham radio culture in the Manila area.

At the internee camp, Hornbostel helped set up the camp's public address system. Using his role as one of the camp's electronic technicians as a cloak, he secretly built a radio transmitter and then tore it down to hide the parts. His plan was to assemble the set when the American forces were near Manila or Luzon, so that it could communicate instructions and pass information to give relief to Manila and the camp. The penalty for such an act was death.

After the war, Hornbostel would go on to marry Elizabeth Pyle Valdez, a daughter of a Constabulary officer and veteran of Bataan, and start his own electronics company, eventually employing several hundreds of Filipino workers in the Manila area.

As Hilarion M. Henares Jr. wrote years ago: "White men will have to share our blood, sweat and tears like Earl Hornbostel, Earl Wilkinson, Fr. Shay Cullen and Fr. James B. Reuter, before they are considered one of us." Hornbostel shared our blood, sweat and tears till his death! Farewell Earl Hornbostel.—**ANTONIO S. CRUZ, L.V. Locsin Bldg., Makati City**

Update list of Senate millionaires

I WAS going through my old files yesterday when I came across an INQUIRER news report dated Aug. 9, 1995 that I clipped and kept since then among my "files of interest." It read: "Enrile heads millionaires' club at Senate," written by Juliet M. Labog.

It's interesting to note that the Top 10 in the millionaires' list of 24 included five of the 11 who voted against the opening of the now infamous second envelope during the impeachment trial, namely Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Tito Sotto, Nikki Coseteng and Francisco Tatad. Enrile was cited as the "biggest spender during the 1992 elections." He and Santiago boast of being "Puwersa ng Masa" (ni Erap) but I doubt if people believe them. Seeing the country's wealthiest people flaunt themselves as "forces of the masses" is, to say the least, very amusing indeed.

The others in the millionaires' list are Jun Magsaysay, the late Marcelo Fernan, Sergio Osmeña, Edgardo Angara and Frank Drilon. Magsaysay and Osmeña are heirs to former Philippine presidents along with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. People Power Coalition's Juan Flavier was at the tail end. Manny Villar was the wealthiest among the members of the House of Representatives.

I suggest that the INQUIRER come up with an updated millionaires' (or billionaires') list among the present senatorial candidates if only to provide the readers a glimpse of the glitter that is in the elections.—**MERLE JIMENEZ-SAN PEDRO, member, Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, Pope Pius Center, UN Avenue, Manila**

Erring priests must pay for sex crimes—CBCP

By Norman Bordadora

IN KEEPING with this season of penitence and redemption, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines wants all priests committing sex crimes to be made to answer legally for their sins.

The CBCP, which has joined Pope John Paul II in acknowledging a Vatican report on the rape of nuns and church workers by members of the clergy, has also issued a public apology to those who were wronged.

The report showed the Philippines to be one of 23 countries in which the crimes occurred. The report said that the priests not only told of the rapes but also of forced abortions that in many cases also resulted in the women's deaths.

"If there are such priests who are found to have raped nuns or anybody for that matter, they will be transferred from their parish to another," CBCP president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo said at a media briefing on immorality in the priesthood.

Protecting the innocent

"This will not be done to keep the priest from any liability but to protect the innocent and the community from further scandal brought about by the crime," the archbishop said.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, the leader of the Catholic Church in the Philippines, will stand by the CBCP position, his spokesperson, Msgr. Socrates Villegas, said.

"The CBCP has spoken and the Cardinal is a member of the CBCP. He will no longer have any further comment," Villegas said.

While there are many documented cases of married priests and even gay priests in the country, the CBCP said it has yet to encounter any priest involved in a rape case or sex crime going unpunished.

The CBCP also recently sounded the alarm over a reported shortage of Filipino priests.

Priest shortage

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, media director of the CBCP, said that while seminaries and formation centers around the country boast full enrollment, the Church continues to experience difficulties in meeting the spiritual and pastoral needs of its flock because of a shortage of priests.

Coronel said that the ideal ratio between the number of priests and residents in a parish is one priest for every 5,000 parishioners. The current national ratio between priests and parishioners is a one priest for every 20,000 parishioners.

"We need people to administer the sacraments to the faithful," Coronel told reporters.

But he said the Church would not sacrifice the quality of seminarians just to fill up the shortage.

The CBCP has called for a stricter screening process for those who want to enter the priesthood in the wake of the Vatican report.

One reason for the shortage is the great number of seminarians and even priests who decide to leave the priesthood for one reason or another.

There is a growing number of seminarians dropping out or priests leaving the priesthood because they want families of their own.

A good number of Filipino priests have decided to marry even while still in the priesthood. Others have children out of wedlock.

Solon wants RP airports upgraded for 'open skies'

THE COUNTY'S airports may not be able to accommodate the entry of big body aircraft of foreign carriers which are expected to operate in the country under the government's plan to further liberalize local aviation.

This apprehension was expressed by Biliran Rep. Gerardo Espina, a member of the House committee on transportation and communications. He said the government must first guarantee aircraft safety and the welfare of the commuting public by establishing much-needed infrastructure in local airports.

Espina cited the low rating of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport based on the standards of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The government should act first on upgrading obsolete facilities and improving poor aircraft safety operations, he said.

"The situation is worse in the provinces where numerous plane accidents have taken place due to problems such as basic navigational aids, lax safety regulations and poor maintenance of runways. We cannot afford to lose lives and property because of neglect," he said.

Espina proposed that the government allocate funds to construct new airports or at least improve existing ones to accommodate big commercial aircraft which foreign carriers will surely use to ply local routes.

"It's a chicken-and-egg situation where one does not know which should come first. But we believe the groundwork in terms of physical setup should be prepared first before adopting liberalized policies in an industry as vital as the airline business," he said.

The legislator urged the Macapagal administration to take a harder look at the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) drafted by the Estrada government, which fleshes out Executive Order 219, the law that liberalizes the country's civil aviation policy.

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The WORLD

Standoff may drag on, Bush warns

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush cautioned that the spy plane standoff may not end soon—"diplomacy takes time"—and warned China that relations with the United States could suffer.

As the showdown threatened Monday to become a political problem for Bush, US diplomats met for a fourth time with the crew of a crippled EP-3E surveillance plane. The 21 men and three women were doing fine, the president reported, and administration officials said negotiations for their release were progressing.

Nonetheless, Beijing insisted anew Monday that Washington apologize and take responsibility for the spy plane's collision with a Chinese fighter jet April 1. The White House said neither demand was warranted, as frustration grew over the slow pace of talks.

"Diplomacy takes time," Bush told reporters. "But there is a point—the longer it goes—there's a point at which our relations with China could become damaged."

Bush, who has issued similar warning to Beijing before, broke new ground with the diplomacy-takes-time formulation. Advisers said it was a plea for patience aimed at conservatives who ratcheted up their anti-China rhetoric over the weekend and began to question his handling of the situation.

The president also hoped to prepare the public for the possibility of protracted negotiations. Polls show voters support Bush's performance on China, but senior Republicans close to him said the good will could evaporate if the standoff continues much longer.

Bush himself set high expectations a week ago Tuesday when he told China "it is time for our servicemen and women to return home" and again Friday when he reported "we're making progress" in negotiations.

Many of his own advisers had said they believed the 24-member crew would be released over the weekend.

Instead, China increased its hardline rhetoric. "Where is the responsibility? I think it's very clear," said Zhu Bangzao, a senior foreign ministry official traveling with Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Argentina.

"The United States should apologize and respond appropriately," Zhu said at a Buenos Aires news conference. "If they don't, it's going to make things difficult. If they do, it's going to help resolve the problem."

Photos of the plane taken by a commercial satellite company show what appear to be several trucks lined up nearby—a sign some analysts say indicates that the Chinese military is taking the aircraft apart for study.

Bush has refused to apologize, though he expressed regret Friday for the loss and presumed death of the pilot. Similar sentiments were contained in a weekend letter from Bush to the pilot's wife, officials said.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sunday the administration was "sorry" for the pilot's loss—the closest the United States has come to an apology. China gave no direct reaction to Powell's statement Monday.

American diplomats were seeking a way to express sympathy to the satisfaction of China without an outright apology. The United States has also proposed having a commission determine the cause of the crash.

State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said US diplomats were "at a sensitive moment," and administration officials said Washington and Beijing had exchanged several drafts of a proposal aimed at ending the standoff but had been unable to come to an agreement.

A senior administration official, briefed on the talks, said negotiations were slowly moving closer to a way to release the crew. Another said advances were minuscule Monday, after rapid progress late last week. *AP*

US, China stakes

A LOOK at US-China economic ties, figures from 2000:

US imports from China: $100 billion.

US exports to China: $16.2 billion.

Trade imbalance: $83.8 billion deficit for United States.

Top US imports from China: electrical machinery, machinery, footwear, toys, sports equipment, woven apparel.

Top US exports to China: machinery, electrical machinery, aircraft, medical instruments, plastics, fertilizer. *AP*

2 students charged with burning 67 boys

NAIROBI—Two high school students were charged Monday with 67 counts of murder in the deaths of fellow pupils who perished when a fire destroyed their dormitory last month.

Felix Mambo Ngumbao, 16, and Davies Otieno Onyango, 17, students at Kyanguli Secondary School where the March 26 blaze took place, stood quietly at a preliminary hearing in the packed court of the chief magistrate.

The teens will be required to enter pleas when their case reopens April 23. Court clerk Mohamed Noordin said if the students, who are minors under Kenyan law, face life imprisonment if they are found guilty.

About 150 students were sleeping in the cramped, poorly maintained dormitory when the fire broke out at the school in Machakos, 50 km southeast of Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

One of the two doors to the dormitory was locked, and the windows were barred, trapping half of the students behind a wall of gasoline-fueled flames, survivors said. Sixty-seven students were killed and 19 others were injured.

Ngumbao stood with his head bowed and fought back tears as the court clerk took three minutes to read out names of all the victims. Onyango stared straight at the clerk without showing emotion.

Onyango, who had both arms bandaged, slept in the dormitory the night of the fire and was among 19 students injured in the blaze. Ngumbao lived in a nearby dorm.

Kyanguli headmaster David Mutiso Kiilu and his deputy, Stephen Kasyoka Makau, also appeared in court, both charged with failing to prevent a felony.

"Knowing there was a threat to set fire to the school, (you) failed to use reasonable means to prevent . . . the completion of the felony," Noordin said while reading out the charges against the pair.

Both Makau and Kiilu pleaded innocent to the charges. They were denied bail and remanded in custody. Their case was adjourned until May 14. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

2 more enter race to replace Mori

TOKYO—Two senior members of Japan's ruling party added their names yesterday to the list of contenders vying to succeed Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, as cracks appeared in the support base for the candidate seen as the front-runner. Joining the race to replace Mori as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party later this month are Shizuka Kamei, head of the party's policy council, and Economic Minister Taro Aso. The election to replace Mori, who is one of Japan's least popular leaders in memory, will be held on April 24. Whoever wins is assured of becoming prime minister because of the Liberal Democrats' strength in Parliament. Though applications to run will not be formally accepted by the party until Thursday, former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had generally been seen as the front-runner. *AP*

Macedonia inks pact with EU

LUXEMBOURG—Macedonia pledged Monday to make rapid progress in addressing the grievances of its restive ethnic Albanian minority, as it signed a landmark pact marking a first step on the long road to full European Union membership. The Stabilization and Association Agreement—which comes hard on the heels of a short-lived ethnic Albanian rebellion on the Kosovo-Macedonia border that nearly sparked a new civil war in the Balkans—binds the former Yugoslav republic to EU standards on democracy and economic reform. Taking the process further, Macedonia affirmed it was setting up an all-party "Europe Committee" chaired by President Boris Trajkovski with a mandate to achieve "first substantive results" by June toward addressing ethnic Albanian concerns. *AFP*

Sharon warns of strong retaliation

JERUSALEM—Israel is set to retaliate without compromise to Palestinian attacks, which have gone beyond "the limits of what can be tolerated," prime minister Ariel Sharon has warned here. Sharon backed up his hawkish image after another day of unrest Monday, although there were no reports of killings during the day. In the latest violence, Palestinians fired mortars at an Israeli military position and a Jewish settlement, but there were no casualties, Israeli military spokespersons said. One of the spokespersons said the attacks followed dozens of similar mortar shelling on Israeli targets in Gaza and nearby Israeli territory in the past three days. Sharon warned that Israel would retaliate "without compromise" to continued Palestinian attacks, Israeli state television reported. *AFP*

Siamese twins successfully separated

SINGAPORE—A team of Singapore surgeons early yesterday successfully completed the separation of a pair of Siamese twins whose brains were enmeshed, in a marathon operation, which stretched more than 80 hours. "The operation was a success, and the babies are stable," a hospital spokesperson said. Nepalese-born twins Ganga and Jamuna Shrestha, who turned 11 months old on Monday, were joined at the head and their brains had become enmeshed where they shared the same cavity. The operation began at 4 p.m. Friday and was expected to take up to 36 hours, but the meticulous separation and reconnection of blood vessels took considerably longer than anticipated. *AFP*

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SECURING A TRAVEL CLEARANCE FOR MINORS

To prevent child trafficking, Republic Act 7610 (otherwise known as Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act) requires unaccompanied minors below 18 years old who are traveling abroad to secure a travel clearance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

A Travel Clearance is a document issued by the DSWD to a minor traveling outside the Philippines, alone or unaccompanied by his parents, certifying that the minor is authorized to travel abroad for valid reasons. A Travel Clearance is not required if the minor is traveling with both his/her parents. If, however, the minor is traveling with only one of his/her parents, the parent who will be left behind shall execute a duly-notarized Parental Travel Permit (in a form prescribed by DSWD) certifying that he/she is allowing the minor to travel with his/her spouse.

Who Are Required to Secure A Travel Clearance

1. Children below 18 years old travelling abroad and who are in any of the following circumstances:
    - Travelling alone;
    - Travelling with a person other than his/her parents or those exercising parental and legal custody of the child;
    - Travelling for the purpose of adoption abroad (inter-country adoption);
    - Minor adopted in the Philippines;
2. An illegitimate child travelling with his/her father; and
3. A minor travelling with a group for sports competition, cultural presentation, pilgrimage or study tours.

Who Can File for Travel Clearance?

1. A minor who is 13 to 17 years old;
2. The minor's parents or legal guardians;
3. The minor's travelling companion; and
4. Authorized representative of the minor's parents/legal guardian

What Are the Requirements for Securing a Travel Clearance?

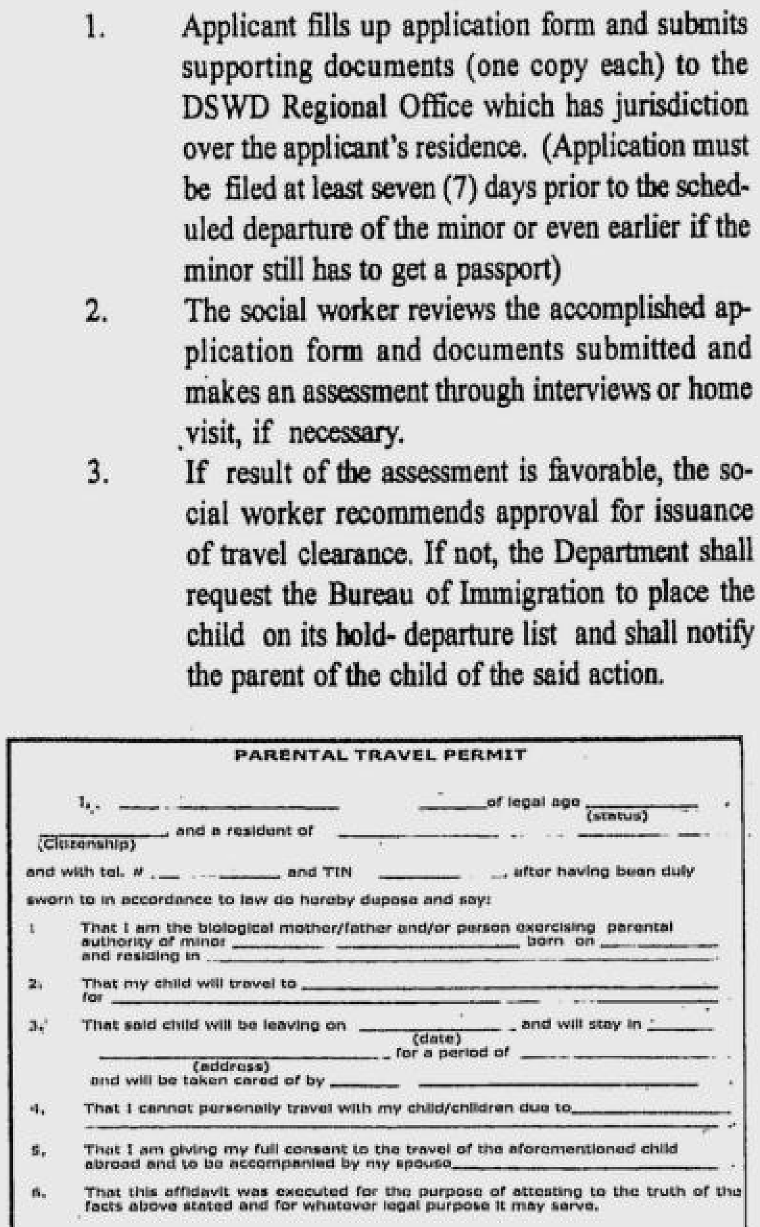
1. Birth certificate on security paper (SECPA) of the minor.
2. Certified copy of Marriage certificate of minor's parents, if appropriate.
3. Notarized affidavit of consent from parents/guardian authorizing a particular person to accompany child in his/her travel abroad.
4. Notarized affidavit of support of sponsor indicating employment and salary certified by the employer, if appropriate.
5. Certified copy of latest income tax return of sponsoring person and/or parent with official confirmation receipts.
6. Two passport - size pictures of minor.
7. Photo copy of passport and visa of travelling companion.

Additional Requirements:

1. For immigrant minors - visa petition approval.
2. For minors who will study abroad - acceptance from the school where minor is to be enrolled.
3. For minors who will attend conference, study tours, etc. - certification from sponsoring organization.
4. For minors going abroad for medical purposes - medical certificate of the minor
5. For adopted minors - certified copy of adoption decree and clearance from the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), if adoption was promulgated less than 15 days when application for clearance to travel was made.
6. For minors under legal guardianship - certified copy of Letter of Guardianship/Court Order
7. For minor who is 13 years old and above travelling alone - affidavit executed by parents or legal guardian stating that minor shall be fetched at the airport by the sponsor and certification from airlines that they will be responsible for the minor while on travel.

What Are the Procedures in the Issuance of a Travel Clearance?

1. Applicant fills up application form and submits supporting documents (one copy each) to the DSWD Regional Office which has jurisdiction over the applicant's residence. (Application must be filed at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled departure of the minor or even earlier if the minor still has to get a passport)
2. The social worker reviews the accomplished application form and documents submitted and makes an assessment through interviews or home visit, if necessary.
3. If result of the assessment is favorable, the social worker recommends approval for issuance of travel clearance. If not, the Department shall request the Bureau of Immigration to place the child on its hold- departure list and shall notify the parent of the child of the said action.



PARENTAL TRAVEL PERMIT

I, ______________ ______ of legal age ______ (status)

______ (Citizenship), and a resident of ______________

and with tel. # ______ and TIN ______, after having been duly sworn to in accordance to law do hereby depose and say:

1. That I am the biological mother/father and/or person exercising parental authority of minor ______ born on ______ and residing in ______
2. That my child will travel to ______ for ______
3. That said child will be leaving on ______ (date) and will stay in ______ (address) for a period of ______ and will be taken cared of by ______
4. That I cannot personally travel with my child/children due to ______
5. That I am giving my full consent to the travel of the aforementioned child abroad and to be accompanied by my spouse ______
6. That this affidavit was executed for the purpose of attesting to the truth of the facts above stated and for whatever legal purpose it may serve.

Affiant further sayeth naught.

______
Signature of Affiant over Printed Name

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ______ day of ______, in the City of ______

For Inquiries: Metro Manila residents may call up 523-9117 or 525-2445 or go to 1680 F. Tirona Benitez St., Malate, Manila.
Non-Metro Manila residents may get in touch with DSWD Field Offices nationwide.

Across the NATION

Tony Bergonia, Assistant Editor

Trees start to fall for Baguio road

BAGUIO CITY—The contractors of the P300-million Baguio Circumferential Road project went ahead with the cutting of trees even without the issuance of an environmental compliance certificate for the project, reports from the regional environment department here showed.

Thirty-four stumps of assorted trees, ranging from 12 to 30 centimeters in diameter, were found by a team from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at the Bakakeng-Ciudad Grande and Balacbac roads.

These roads are part of the proposed western link of the Baguio Circumferential Road.

Many trees along these roads and at Camp 7 Road were also damaged, the report said.

Nestor Mariano, assistant director of the Department of Public Works and Highways' engineering district here, said the stumps were not cut by the contractors but were already there when the DPWH came in.

The DPWH, however, noted that the stumps were freshly cut.

The DENR's Environment Management Bureau filed a temporary stop to the construction of the Baguio Circumferential Road project on Feb. 2.

The private contractors were told to answer the Cenro report.

The DPWH applied for an ECC on Dec. 21 but it has not yet been approved because it lacks some requirements, Mariano said.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez stopped the construction of the Baguio Circumferential Road because it would entail the cutting of 7,000 century-old trees.

But Roquesa de Castro, DENR Cordillera director, said she does not agree that there would be many trees that would be cut in the road's construction. She said they have not made an inventory of trees in the area.

The Baguio Circumferential Road was envisioned to help decongest traffic along Baguio's central business district. It will be composed of mostly existing roads, except for parts of the Ciudad Grande Subdivision and Barangay Happy Hallow.

Frederick Villanueva, EMB regional director, said most of the trees to be cut would be at Package Nos. IV and V of the eastern link side of the project.

This section includes the Happy Hallow Watershed project that will be given an award by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid) this month for ecological sustainability and community partnership.

AusAid funded the watershed and livelihood project for the 300 families in Happy Hallow with the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation Inc. as its implementor.

Package Nos. IV and V of the eastern link cover Happy Hallow Road from Kadaclan to Baguio Country Club.

The DPWH admitted that 1,318 trees would be cut, but said that these do not include those in the Happy Hallow Watershed reservation.

The project's Happy Hallow Road, which will cut through a thick forest, is estimated to be 2 kilometers long. An existing trail used by village residents was deemed too steep for the project, Mariano said.

He said the existing trail has a gradient (degree of slope) of 20 percent.

Mariano also said the P300 million allotted for the project had already been released.

A report commissioned by AusAid that the INQUIRER erroneously cited as that of JVOFI's in an earlier report said 7,000 century-old trees were to be sacrificed if the road project pushes through.

The watershed is part of the Camp John Hay reservation.

"But as far as I'm concerned, the Bases Conversion Development Authority was not consulted," Villanueva said.

A BCDA officer admitted they were not consulted on the Happy Hallow Road project.

"The DPWH said it is a government project and we left it at that. But if we would have been consulted, we would not like it because it is a watershed," the source said. *Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Judge declares illegal arrest of convicted bet

DIGOS CITY—A regional trial court (RTC) judge here declared as illegal the arrest of congressional bet Pablo Villaber by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

RTC Judge Hilario Mapayo of the RTC Branch 19 said he found Villaber's petition for *habeas corpus* "meritorious" and ordered his release.

". . . it is perfectly improper for the NBI, or any officer of the law, to arrest and detain a person on the basis of a mere xerox copy of a court order of arrest which has not been properly authenticated. Such a copy is obviously a mere scrap of paper," Mapayo said in his five-page decision issued Thursday last week.

Copies of the court's decision were made available only yesterday.

Mapayo said for seven years, the NBI did not bother to secure an authenticated copy of the Jan. 20, 1994 order of Judge Eloy Bello, then of the RTC-15 Manila, which directed law enforcement agencies to arrest Villaber because of a conviction with finality by the Supreme Court for estafa.

"The NBI did not even offer any reason why it failed to do so despite the fact that it has all the power and resources under its command to secure the said arrest order," Mapayo said.

Villaber, arrested by the NBI on March 22, presented an alleged order dated Feb. 20, 1994, also by Judge Bello, setting aside the arrest warrant used by the NBI.

But on the hearing for the petition, Desiree Dayag, clerk of court of Manila RTC-15, said the Feb. 20 order does not appear in the court records concerning Villaber's estafa case.

Artemio Tajon, provincial prosecutor who acted as lawyer for the NBI, said the petition should have not been given attention in the first place because its basis was non-existent.

But Mapayo said under the assumption of regularity, the authenticated copy of the Feb. 20 order, which was presented by Villaber, stands because it was not proven to be spurious or fabricated.

But Tajon said he found Mapayo's decision unconvincing.

"We are not satisfied with the decision. There are so many defects in it that we have filed our notice of appeal (before the Court of Appeals) on April 6," he said.

Tajon said he could not understand why Mapayo has given more weight to the alleged Feb. 20 order when it was clearly stated by their witness (Dayag) that it does not appear in court records.

"It seems the Jan. 20 order, which was made (the) basis for the arrest, became the spurious document," Tajon said.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 34° Lo 25°	Baguio Hi 26° Lo 17°	Tuguegarao Hi 34° Lo 24°	Laoag Hi 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone Hi 34° Lo 24°	Tagaytay Hi 33° Lo 22°	Legazpi Hi 33° Lo 24°	Calapan Hi 34° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 34° Lo 25°	Roxas Hi 33° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 33° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos Hi 35° Lo 24°	Zamboanga Hi 34° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 34° Lo 24°	Davao Hi 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Central Luzon Desk
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
Barangay 34 (Oro site),
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 480-8099
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail:
inq_bicol@inquirer.com .ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St.,
Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346 /
233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail:
pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
479-c General Luna St.,
Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-7122
Fax No. (082) 227-6723
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.webling.com

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Tarlac: Prestige Cars, Inc.
SITE:
Brgy. San Rafael, Tarlac, Tarlac
CONTACT PERSONS:
Mr. Bong Aban (0917-4981678)
Mr. Mario Villafuerte (0917-8144940)

Olongapo: PGA Cars, Inc.
SITE
Caltex Florentino, Rizal Ave., Olongapo City
CONTACT PERSON
Mr. Ronnie Cavida (0919-2160673)

Tagaytay: Prestige Cars Makati, Inc.
SITE:
Petron Tagaytay, Fajardo Station, Mahabang Kahoy, Kaybagal, Tagaytay City
CONTACT PERSON:
Mr. Rey Guinalang (0917-8929630)
(0918-9229630)

Fishing operators vow to reject child labor

By Alex Pal
and Romy Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Fifty-six fishing boat operators in Negros Oriental have signed an agreement to stop employing children in their operations.

The Negros Oriental Fishing Boat Operators Cooperative (Nofboc) also promised to help in efforts to combat child labor in the fishing industry, particularly in the *kubkub* operation.

This developed after the Nofboc signed a letter of agreement on Sunday with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the International Labor Organization-International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (Ilo-Ipec).

Under the agreement, the signatories vowed to "collaborate and establish mechanisms" to combat child labor in the fishing sector and to monitor activities against child labor.

Elvie Kompan, Nofboc president, said it would be painful to turn away minors who are in need of jobs but she promised that her group would honor what had been agreed upon.

She admitted that *kubkub* operators had been hiring minors because parents sometimes plead with them to allow their children to work with the *kubkubs.*

The *kubkub* is a fishing method that uses big fish nets to catch different species of tuna. Fish caught by the *kubkub* fishing boats supply all the fish needs of Negros Oriental. The children are employed in the boats to watch the fishing nets.

With 56 members, the Nofboc is the only organization of fishing boat operators that are into *kubkub.*

Imelda Catalan, Ilo-Ipec national project coordinator, said only the Nofboc signified its intention to support the agreement.

But she said the Ilo-Ipec and its partners in the government were working to get the commitment of other fishing companies that were engaged in other fishing methods, such as the *pa-aling*.

Unlike *kubkub*, the *pa-aling* method requires children to swim in the sea to scare fish into the nets, using bubbles from air compressors.

But Jess Macasil, chief workplace monitor of the Ilo-Ipec, said the *kubkub* operations are being used as a "training ground" for minors before they move on to work with *pa-aling* operators.

He added that it was easier for children to be lured to the *pa-aling* method because their parents readily accept "cash advances" ranging from P3,000 to P5,000.

Data gathered by the Ilo-Ipec showed that an average of 10 children aged 12-14 work for a *kubkub* operator. They are not paid salaries but are given a share of the catch, the data showed.

A survey conducted by the Silliman University last year showed that about 50 percent of families living in the coastal villages of the province had children working in the fishing sector, a significant number of whom work for *kubkub* operators.

Catalan said most of the child workers from Negros Oriental, who are in the fisheries sector, were from hinterland barangays of two towns here.

She said the child laborers are from the hinterland barangays of Inacban in Ayungon town and Maningcao in Sibulan town, as well as from the coastal barangays of Pangalaycayan and Nalundan in Bindoy town and Bonawon and Maloh in Siaton town.

AN APPEAL TO PRESIDENT ARROYO
Veto the Lateral Attrition Law Now!

We are the employees and middle managers of the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau and other revenue collection agencies of government. Our day to day work result to an annual average collection of Ph.400 billion duties and taxes and service fees. This is about 66% of the 2001 budgetary outlay of the government.

Majority of us has spent our productive years braving the misconception by the public of our involvement in every tax evasion, smuggling and other graft and corruption practices in our offices. It is not known to the public that as employees we suffer from harassment, coercion and the pain of being "scapegoats" in big - time and publicized malpractices that only our superiors are in the best position to commit. More so, our salaries and wages are way below the NEDA poverty line.

Madam President, this time, a more massive and systematic way of our suffering is being put in placed sadly by your administration. We refer to the Lateral Attrition Law (LAL) that awaits your signature after the hurried approval by Congress upon your assumption to the Office of the President. So we wonder, why an Estrada Bill which we were vigorously opposing got the immediate action, in haste and behind our backs.

Your economic advisers, as you are an economist, maybe fully convinced that this law is the answer to a cash-strapped government and a quick solution to the staggering budget deficit. The National Government (NG) budget deficit reached 4.5 percent of GNP (IMF definition) against target of 2.9 percent mainly because of revenue shortfall a problem created by our blind adherence to trade liberalization and GATT/WTO. Do not worry Madam President, we are as concerned about the importance of efficient and effective revenue collection for after all, it is our share in public service, but LAL is an unnecessary move.

We appeal to you Madam President, to veto the Lateral Attrition Law. Instead you may review the policies that are directly causing the downtrend in revenues and our view of arbitrary target setting. Your administration must seriously address large scale smuggling and tax evasion, logically committed by those who have direct access to power holders, especially in Malacanang.

You may also take a second look at the policies of globalization such as: liberalization, privatization and deregulation. Remember that under GTT/WTO our target is "zero tariff" so how can we increase our customs collection? What about the package of incentives for foreign investors? Isn't that the government is losing P150 billions in foregone taxes because of the bonanza of tax holidays for foreign corporations?

LAL can turn into your "thorn", as we believe that this proposed law is not and will never be a revenue enhancement measure but a formula to streamline tha ranks of the employees in all revenue generating agencies particularly the Bureau of Customs, BIR and EIIB, and obviously, will result to continuing mass lay off.

We have the right to equal protection under the constitution and the responsibility to defend our jobs. Thus we will not stop at any thing to protest the implementation of the LAL.

We call upon you to carefully listen to the voice of government employees the civil servants that you vowed to protect. Gone are the days when we just sitback, wait and endure our sad fate in the hands of politicians and superiors. We have learned to speak and act to protect our rights, as we have become active participants in decision making.

VETO THE LATERAL ATTRITION LAW NOW!

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE WIDE ALLIANCE AGAINST MASS LAY-OFF

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR)

MR. AGUINALDO L. MIRAVALLES
President
PHIL. ASS'N OF REVENUE
DISTRICT OFFICERS (PARDO)

ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE AND INVESTIGATION BUREAU (EIIB)

MS. REMEDIOS PRINCESA
Vice-President
BUKLOD NG KAWANING
EIIB (BK-EIIB)

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

MR. ROMULO A. PAGULAYAN
President
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION (BOCEA)

ATTY. TITUS A. SANGIL
President
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
LAWYERS LEAGUE

MR. RAUL P. RODRIGUEZ
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CONCERNED CUSTOMS BROKERS
AND REPRESENTATIVES

MR. WARLITO S. PERDIDO
President
ASSOCIATION OF CUSTOMS
INSPECTORS AND GUARDS

MR. DIAMAEL A. MAROHOMBSAR
President
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
MUSLIMS SARIAH

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

3 PPC bets anger Lakas men in Aklan

By Recto Vidal
PDI Visayas Bureau

KALIBO, Aklan—Disgruntled leaders of the Lakas-NUCD here threatened to junk three senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition for "acts of disloyalty" and for alleged "arrogant behavior" while campaigning in the province.

PPC senatorial candidates Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan and Manuel Villar incurred the ire of local leaders of the administration party for "maintaining" friendly ties with their political rivals who are running under the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa coalition.

Reelectionist Sen. Franklin Drilon displeased Lakas leaders here when he refused to "acknowledge" them during a news conference in this capital town on March 24.

The Lakas leaders here said Pangilinan came here on March 22 and campaigned in the province without even informing local Lakas leaders.

They said Pangilinan instead met with opposition candidates led by reelectionist Gov. Florencio Miraflores, a staunch supporter of ousted President Joseph Estrada, who even accompanied Pangilinan while he campaigned in Kalibo.

The Lakas leaders could not be appeased even if Pangilinan, in a press conference during his visit, vehemently denied that he was campaigning only for himself.

They also refused to accept Pangilinan's explanation that he was just paying a "courtesy call" to Miraflores, whom he described as an old friend.

"Contrary to reports, I did not connive with anybody, never with the opposition party. I am no traitor," Pangilinan said.

Drilon came here on March 24 but Lakas leaders here said he only made matters worse because Drilon, in a press conference, did not only refuse to comment on Pangilinan's meeting with Miraflores but also allegedly snubbed local party leaders.

After the press conference, Lakas gubernatorial candidate Sergio Rigodon said he approached Drilon and asked if the local candidates in the province could have a few minutes with him and the other PPC senatorial candidates.

Rigodon said Drilon told him that he was only in Kalibo for a press conference. But what angered him, Rigodon said, was when Drilon suddenly turned his back on him while he was still asking the senator to reconsider his position.

"Drilon's behavior speaks of his arrogance and insensitivity to the plight of the poor local leaders here who have been waiting in vain just to present their pressing concerns to him," an irate Rigodon said over the weekend.

Leovigildo Mationg, the Lakas candidate for the lone congressional district here, also criticized Villar who also campaigned here on March 20.

Local Lakas candidates scored Villar for using a vehicle provided to him by Mationg's opponent, Billie Calizo, the LDP's congressional candidate for Aklan's lone district.

Villar used Calizo's vehicle when he came here as guest speaker at the commencement exercise of the Aklan College, according to Rigodon.

6 killed in Benguet delivery truck crash

BAGUIO CITY—Six people were killed and six others were seriously hurt Monday night when an Olongapo City-bound truck loaded with vegetables turned turtle along an accident-prone portion of the Marcos Highway in Tuba, Benguet, police said.

The accident that occurred in Barangay Badiwan in Tuba was the first major road accident reported this year and the first during Holy Week celebrations, police said.

Killed instantly were Alonzo Carlos, Noel de Dios, Gener Carreon and Gloria Babasa. Sandro Sason died while undergoing treatment Monday night at the Baguio General Hospital while Larry Ocampo died of head injuries Tuesday morning.

PO2 Edwin Laroya of the Tuba police said Carlos, the truck driver, was maneuvering the six-wheel truck through the Marcos Highway when it lost its brakes and turned turtle. The truck then hit a boulder at the roadside, he said.

He said the truck was on its way to Olongapo City to deliver seven tons of assorted vegetables from Benguet.

"The driver was not negotiating a sharp curve when the accident took place. The truck merely lost its brakes," he said.

SPO2 Rogelio Tamquing, chief investigator of the Tuba police, said there was no approaching vehicle when the truck, reportedly owned by Mario Nicolas Jr. of Olongapo City, skidded on the highway at 8 p.m. Monday.

Six passengers of the truck are in serious condition for various injuries. They are Ernesto Lorenzo, Rosalinda Labio, Marlon Guigante, Leonardo Salvador, Dalisay Paras and Jose Cordero.

Tamquing said they have been closely coordinating with private radio communications groups in the city to monitor the flow of traffic along the busy Marcos Highway and to help commuters bound for Baguio for the Lenten break.

The Marcos Highway is among the three major routes to and from the country's summer capital. The other routes are Kennon and Naguillan roads. *Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Palace to investigate death of female PMAer

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur—Malacañang has promised to step into the investigation of the mysterious death of Army 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez, the officer's father said here.

Efren Chavez told the INQUIRER that Executive Secretary Renato de Villa had promised to order a reinvestigation of the death of his daughter during his meeting with Palace officials last week.

Jessica Chavez, a member of the Philippine Military Academy's Sanghaya Class 2000, was found dead in her room at the military police unit's barracks in Fort Bonifacio on Feb. 9. She succumbed to a lone bullet wound in the chest.

Efren Chavez said De Villa told him that the new investigation would be handled by Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief.

"We hope Secretary De Villa could help us," Chavez said.

He said he recently spent a week in Metro Manila and had approached all possible agencies in seeking justice for his daughter's death.

He said both De Villa and National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco had ruled out suicide in Jessica's death.

Wycoco, according to Chavez, had assured him that they would continue investigating the case.

Chavez said his suspicions that Jessica was murdered were further strengthened with the new information that he had gathered.

He said Maximo Reyes of the NBI's medico-legal division told him that a .38 cal. gun was used in the incident.

But Chavez said his daughter did not possess a handgun of that type.

Chavez also complained of the handling of vital evidence in his daughter's case, saying investigators and Chavez's officials did not preserve the evidence that could shed light on the officer's death. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

‘Faithscape’ in Pampanga

BY TONETTE OREJAS
Pampanga

LENT transforms Pampanga, one of the country’s oldest Catholic provinces, into one “faithscape.” Crosses rise in figures of crucified men or penitents embracing the hot ground at high noon.

Faith also manifests in rituals that range from the traditional to the bloody, from the solemn to the rowdy, from the genuine to the superficial with tourist appeal.

No other place in the Philippines displays faith in a violent, public manner than in San Pedro Cutud in the City of San Fernando.

The reenactment of the Via Crusis (Way of the Cross) on Good Friday features the crucifixion of 10 men, the flagellation by nearly 500 men, including three boys, and the gathering of more than 20,000 foreign and local spectators at Cutud, a hill made out of Mt. Pinatubo’s lahar.

Yearly since the residents could remember in the their lifetime, the blood of *mandarame* (flagellants) has blotched the two-kilometer route leading to Cutud in Purok Kuwatro.

After having their backs slit by *panabad* (glass shards or razor), the flagellants whip themselves with *burilyos* (bamboo pads tied to a braided cloth) with the ferocity of atoning sinners.

Their faces concealed by *kaparosas* (black or white hoods crowned with flowers or leaves) and walking barefoot in two long queues, the flagellants usher the cross-bearing Kristos (Christs) at every Station of the Cross up to the hill.

Bloody penance

They end their bloody penance by supplicating at the gate of the Calvary, shedding and leaving their hoods there.

The nailing of the Kristos is the most awaited spectacle. Like a mob thirsty for blood, the crowd turns noisy and unruly when journalists and foreign tourists block the crucifixion scene. They want to see how three-inch nails are hammered in the palms and feet of the Kristos.

Began in the 1950s by faith healer Apong Temyong, flagellation and crucifixion have continued in the village although these have been strongly discouraged by the Catholic Church.

"They need not inflict pain on their bodies to repent," Fr. Alvin Manalang, parish priest of San Pedro Cutud and nearby Sta. Lucia, explained.

But the intentions, especially of the Kristos, have always been questioned since the 1980s when the barangay council systematically promoted the practices as tourism attractions.

Within the same village, reports persist that most of those who play Christ get nailed for the quick cash which foreign journalists and event sponsors fork out.

“(These reports) are not true," according to San Pedro Cutud barangay chair Zoilo Castro Jr.

What is true, Castro said, is that the residents make money from selling snacks and driving pedicabs when visitors on Good Friday teem in the lahar-swamped village.

Apo Zarte

Cutud is also the last stop of the five-day, 60-kilometer journey of 15 cross-bearing members of the Nazareno Lourdes Fatima sect, which is based in Barangay Matatalaib in Tarlac City.

Its leader, Apo Zarte, 24, claimed he had received an order from the Nazarene Christ five years ago to bring the cross all over the country.

The words “Ave Maria Purisma Sin Pecado Concevida" are inscribed on their white, heavy crosses and on their white robes. Last year, the sect trudged from Tondo, Manila to Pampanga.

This year, their sixth, they plan to start the trail from Baguio City, Apo Zarte said. At every chapel they pass, they stop to sing the passion narrative.

Aetas and Lent

Among 114 villages of Aetas in Central Luzon, only those in Pasbul in Porac, Pampanga, are known to flagellate and reenact the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

Originally animists, they have been the targets of conversion since the turn of the 16th century.

An Aeta acts the role of Christ, but like the rest of the actors, the participants halfheartedly recite ready-made prayers in Filipino, not in the Aeta languages of Kapampangan or Sambal.

The prayers are not said in the way they extemporaneously relate with Apo Namalyari, their god whose name means “he who makes things possible."

Introduced three years ago by Siena College missionaries, the Way of the Cross is foreign to the indigenous culture.

The Aetas continue to be nominal Catholics, Born-Again Christians and Muslims although these sects are aggressive when they proselytize, according to Pan Baisek, an elder.

Religious groups have managed to convert the Aetas by equating and not by contradicting Christ with Apo Namalyari, he explained in Kapampangan.

He said the Aetas assimilated those that are good in religions foreign to them while they keep on with tribal practices.

“We still respect the rivers, the stones, the mountains, the trees and the animals that roam the forests. We respect people because that's how Apo Namalyari wants us to live," Pan Baisek said.

AETAS also practice flagellation on Good Friday.

TONETTE OREJAS

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San Fernando, Pampanga
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Tagaytay City
(Shell Station near Taal Vista Lodge)
Sto. Tomas, Batangas
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Naga City
(Peñafrancia Travel & Tours Bldg.)

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Gov't, NDF pick Oslo as venue for peace talks

(From page A1)

tor Luis Jalandoni and wife Coni Ledesma. Supporting the panel were legal consultants Romeo Capulong and Marie Yuviengco, and NDF consultant Vic Ladlad.

In a phone interview, Bello said Cabinet Cluster E, which is scheduled to meet today, would still have to approve Oslo as the venue of the formal talks.

Bello said the two parties would separately write letters to formally ask the Norwegian government to host the talks.

"The Norwegian government had earlier manifested their willingness to host the talks and so we will be simply making a formal request," Bello said.

Jalandoni disclosed that he and his wife Coni, along with Jose Ma. Sison and Fidel Agcaoili, NDF senior political consultant and peace panel member, respectively, went to the Norwegian Embassy in The Hague, Netherlands five days ago to deliver the NDF's letter requesting Oslo to host the talks.

Six years ago, Norway had already expressed its willingness to host the negotiations, according to Jalandoni.

"Norway has the prestige and a rich experience in hosting peace negotiations," he said over radio dzMM.

Prestige

Jalandoni said that Norway had previously hosted talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and those related to internal conflicts in Guatemala and Sri Lanka.

"Norway's hosting will also add prestige and dignity to the peace negotiations between the (Macapagal) government and the NDF," Jalandoni said.

At the breakfast meeting, which lasted for more than an hour, the government and NDF panels also agreed on the agenda for the formal talks.

Bello said a representative of the Norwegian government would first deliver a welcome address, after which the chairpersons of the two parties would deliver their opening statements.

"Afterwards, there will be an exchange of credentials and updated drafts on the proposals of the two parties on socioeconomic reforms," Bello said.

"The two parties will then formally activate their respective reciprocal working committees which will go over the drafts," he said.

Working committees

In a separate phone interview, Munsayac said Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza would head the government's working committee.

Munsayac said the NDF's working committee would be led by Juliet de Lima-Sison, wife of Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Ma. Sison, a senior political consultant of the NDF.

Bello also said that the two parties had agreed on the terms of the recently reinstated Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees, which provides measures for the safety of negotiators and their staff.

Bello said the NDF would submit anytime next week a list of 87 NDF personnel to be issued safe conduct passes.

"I will be signing the safe conduct passes as soon as the NDF submits its list," Bello said.

Munsayac said the two sides had chosen Bishop Tomas Millamena of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines to serve as the "third party depository" of the sealed envelope containing the pictures and "assumed names" of NDF personnel.

Jinggoy blames GMA for Taytay housing mess

(From page A1)

ning water, doors, windows and roofs. The structural soundness of the buildings is also in question. The buildings shake whenever a car passes through the narrow streets.

The tenements were supposed to be the showcase of the resettlement area that the ousted President created in 1985 when he was still mayor of San Juan for squatters from his town. Some 10,000 people live in the area.

Check issued Jan. 16, 2001

Mayor Estrada disclosed that the check for P100 million was issued to the San Juan local government on the night of Jan. 16, 2001.

On that night, the Senate rejected the opening of the second envelope containing evidence that then President Joseph Estrada, the mayor's father, had a P3.2-billion bank account with the Equitable PCI Bank.

The suppression of evidence at the impeachment trial of the senior Estrada infuriated the public, prompting them to launch People Power II.

Housing Secretary Michael Defensor disclosed on Monday that the ousted President had instructed the NHA to release P100 million in 1999 to help finance the construction of the apartment buildings.

NHA general manager Edgardo Pamintuan said the P100 million was part of the agency's housing assistance to local government units.

Pamintuan said his office would investigate whether Mayor Estrada had received special favor from the NHA when it released the P100 million to the municipality.

The mayor belied the NHA's claim that P280 million had been spent on the project.

He said San Juan had received only P60 million from the government. He noted that the money was granted to San Juan during the administration of his father.

The mayor said the local government of San Juan was looking for people and groups that would help them finish the housing project.

Senate probe

The chair of the Senate committee on housing, urban development and resettlement yesterday expressed alarm at an INQUIRER report that a favorite housing project of the Estrada administration had not been finished despite the release of P280 million.

"This P280-million Taytay project could very well be just the tip of the iceberg insofar as the deployment of the investible funds of the SSS, GSIS and Pag-Ibig is concerned," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said.

Biazon yesterday summoned officials of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the NHA, the National Home Mortgage Financing Corp. and the Public Estates Authority to shed light on the unfinished tenements.

JINGGOY Estrada, San Juan mayor: Yes, we got the check to finish the construction of the tenements, but it bounced. VAL HANDUMON

"I asked that this be investigated and that I be given a copy of the investigation report. I intend to go there and see the project for myself next week," Biazon said.

He said HUDCC officials promised to give him a report on the Taytay project next week.

Biazon said the 10,000 unoccupied housing units contracted by the government with Filinvest Land would also be discussed with the housing officials.

He said he was alarmed because government financial institutions had been asked to sink capital into these projects in addition to (private) investments.

"One of these days, I am going to take a look at the investments of the GSIS, SSS and Pag-Ibig because they might have jeopardized the interest of the government," Biazon said.

He had inspected socialized housing projects like the Erap City in Montalban, Rizal, which has been the subject of complaints by occupants.

Biazon said he wanted an inventory of the tens of thousands of unoccupied housing projects built by private developers using government funds.

Biazon particularly asked Filinvest to explain why half of the 21,000 housing units it constructed through a joint-venture agreement with the government remained unoccupied and unpaid by their supposed buyers.

Biazon said this was a waste of government funds.

He had earlier reprimanded certain developers for building substandard units and jacking up prices, which were among the reasons buyers refused to acquire the units. *Val Handumon, Agnes E. Donato and Juliet L. Javellana*

Bishop finds peace . . .

(From page A1)

indication, Geremia said, of the life Valles was going to live among people of differing beliefs and politics. It was also the same year when the prelature of Kidapawan was started.

Making a difference

The story of the little girl Valles likes to recall before people who help the Muslims and Christians caught in the perennial battle of ideologies and politics in Mindanao, always amazed and reiterating the little effort it took to make a difference in the life of someone, whether Christian or Muslim.

"I could not imagine," the bishop recounted, "that an empty carton could be of such inestimable value to this child."

Since he was ordained bishop of Kidapawan in 1997, a time when Kidapawan was one of the areas most affected by the poverty and war in Mindanao, Valles has been keeping an eye on the evacuation centers, where he met the little girl whose story he loves to tell.

Villagers refer to the 50 year-old Valles as a humble, almost unnoticeable man, who had shared the "troubled history" of the region without giving up his dream of peace amid war, love amid strife and faith amid hopelessness.

Tabang Mindanaw

"His ability to be in control of an evil situation and to extract good from it, to radiate love where there is so much prejudice and hatred, to inspire us . . . to continue to do the little we could . . . are what make him so great a bishop," said Howard Dee and Merlie Mendoza, Valles' co-workers in Tabang Mindanaw.

In 1998 when El Niño struck, the bishop had facilitated the relief and medical assistance program called Tabang Mindanaw especially in tribal communities where many farmers faced starvation. He went around on medical missions and food distribution among the tribals who roamed in search of what little was left of their drought-ravaged crops.

Valles' diocese in Kidapawan became the center of assistance until the calamity subsided.

Father Geremia described the bishop as "a father who could not stand seeing his children hungry" and who had unashamedly approached people of good will in Metro Manila to help in the Tabang Mindanaw project.

And it is as Valles had always prayed for when he first entered the priesthood. Below his photo, the young priest then wrote: "He must increase; I must decrease." (John 3:30)

"His looks betray a certain meekness of character," Bishop Pueblos said of Valles. "But this meek and humble servant is also a shepherd who has led his flock through rough times of war, violence, conflict and strife."

Lifetime calling

The constant fighting between the Moros and soldiers had driven thousands of families to evacuation centers, mostly dilapidated schools that serve as shelter by night. This is where the bishop had found his home—and lifetime calling.

He was among the most outspoken critics of the all-out-war policy in Mindanao of the past administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada. Valles knew how the evacuees badly wanted to go back to their homes and rebuild their lives without fear that a bomb could drop in their midst anytime.

"He became the lone voice in the wilderness crying for peace while the media were filled with the noise of war and the population caught between fear and prejudice," Geremia said.

"Opportunities were fanning the fire of ethnic violence, and even the evacuees became the target of bombings and strafings," he said. "We felt the helplessness of peacemakers unable to quench the fires of war."

But no loud guns could silence the bishop's call for peace.

He gathered Muslim and Christian religious leaders in a series of meetings that became known as the Ustadz, Priests, Imams Forum, similar to the Bishop-Ulamas Forum that started earlier. Valles wanted to ensure the peace process at the local level, where townspeople could get involved.

While coming from opposing sides, the Muslim and Christian leaders supported Valles' call for peace, launched various medical missions and rehabilitation efforts, and eventually developed a sense of solidarity that had seemed impossible at first.

Low profile

In all his efforts, Valles never once considered his endeavors his claim to fame, choosing a low-profile lifestyle that allowed him to mingle with tribesfolk and even members of the New People's Army and Moro Islamic Liberation Front without prejudice.

"People have asked: Is Bishop Valles the bishop of the Muslims? Or the bishop of the evacuees?" said a member of the Kidapawan diocese.

"Somewhere in the mountains, a fully armed team of NPAs met him and asked 'What's a bishop doing here?'" the staff recounted. "Is he the bishop of the NPAs?"

Valles had not said a word, but His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin, had a simple and fitting answer to all their questions about the bishop.

"He is an example of a priest who has become the living sign of Christ to the people he serves."

Keep cool, hotter days still ahead

(From page A1)

the weather bureau that the coming days will get even warmer, the Department of Health warned the public against staying unprotected under the sun and advised people to drink a lot of cold beverages to prevent heat stroke.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that although it might feel like this summer must be setting record highs, this is not really so—well, at least not yet.

In fact, according to Vic Manalo of Pagasa's climatology and agrometeorology branch, "we are actually back to normal" temperatures.

The hottest April was recorded in 1990 when the temperature reached 37.9 degrees Celsius. The hottest temperature this month, so far, was that recorded last Sunday—36 degrees Celsius.

Manalo said that people only feel that this summer is warmer because last year was cooler due to the influence of the rain-inducing La Niña.

And just when people are feeling that the heat is already getting unbearable, Pagasa is saying that the days will get hotter until the middle of June.

"We're still on the upward trend as far as the temperature is concerned and we're not even experiencing El Niño yet," Manalo said.

So how could one cope with the heat?

"The best remedy to a hot weather is to stay indoors if possible and to drink plenty of cold water or fruit juices to fight heat stroke and heat exhaustion," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit advised.

"Drink extra fluids to replace those lost through sweating and take foods rich in potassium, such as oranges and bananas," he added.

Wear loose-fitting cotton shirts. When indoors, make sure there is good ventilation and use fans or air conditioners.

The health secretary said those working in construction sites, roof maintenance, road maintenance, steel mills, underground mining, smelting and foundry operations, bakeries and restaurants are the most exposed to heat and should take the necessary precautions.

Heat stroke is caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures. Its symptoms include sudden dizziness, weakness, fainting, headache, high body temperature that could reach up to 38.9 degrees Celsius, rapid heartbeat, muscle cramps and dark yellow urine.

Heat exhaustion is the loss of body fluids from sweating and failing to drink enough replacement fluids. It is caused by sweating and inadequate fluid intake, recent illness involving fluid loss from vomiting or diarrhea and physical activity in a hot environment.

Cases of heat stroke and heat exhaustion need immediate attention by a physician.

But there could still be relief in sight based on the weather bureau's predictions.

Manalo said summer 2001 would tend to be "warm and humid" and there will be isolated rains and thunderstorms from time to time in various areas.

At the agriculture department, Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said the hot days have not adversely affected the country's rice harvest so far.

"In my recent tours in Western Visayas, the Ilocos region and in Isabela, for example, the farmers said they have quite a good yield this year," Montemayor told dzMM.

The DA expects the El Niño phenomenon to take its toll on farming in June.

"But so far indications are that it will not be as bad as the El Niño in 1998," Montemayor added.

Manero back in prison after meeting Macapagal

(From page A1)

"His surrender changes nothing. His demands to the President will not amount to anything. He should address them to the court," presidential spokesperson Renato Corona Jr. had said.

Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, admitted he was "surprised" the President agreed to Manero's presentation but said Ms Macapagal is within her right to do so.

"It is already there. If she happens to be the President of all the Filipino people, she has to deal with everybody, the lowest, the highest, the law-abiding and the criminals. Let us give it to her, she's the President," Ermita said.

The President said: "My administration is committed to the rule of law. No one is beyond the reach of our justice system. I assure my countrymen that the law will always be enforced without fear or favor. No one, but no one can set conditions for the dispensation of justice, be he a political figure or an ordinary criminal. So, I congratulate Jess for (Manero's) unconditional surrender."

Ms Macapagal said Manero's return to jail marks the "ending (of) a chapter that has engrossed many of us especially in Mindanao which has been a focal point for our development efforts."

"Let us, therefore, move on. There are many issues that need to be addressed, that need full attention," Ms Macapagal said.

Prisoner 129848-P

At the Davao penal farm, Manero, using his old Prisoner No. 129848-P, was escorted by Dureza and 10 prison guards as he entered Dormitory A of the Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC).

He wore a white shirt with a drawing of durian and Davao printed on it, light brown pants and brown leather shoes.

"*Okey lang. Okey lang. Mamaya na. Mamaya na* (Later, later)," Manero told reporters. Minutes later, he was seen wearing the prisoner's orange shirt.

A Huey helicopter, escorted by two MG-520 assault helicopters, brought Manero and Dureza's party here from the Davao International Airport where they changed aircraft from Zamboanga City.

Manero looked haggard as he was escorted from the chopper to a waiting L300 utility van of the Bureau of Corrections en route to the RDC, some 50 meters away.

Manero was given three orange-colored shirts, a pair of slippers, a detergent bar and powder, bath soap, a stripe blanket, toothpaste, toothbrush, face towel and a fuschia mosquito net.

Manero now shares a cell with 50 other prisoners.

Dureza stayed for about 15 minutes with Manero and his wife, in the RDC compound.

The RDC is a tightly secured area in the 95-hectare penal farm which is designed to accept newly committed inmates. Prisons Supt. Alfredo Gozon said the RDC is a maximum security compound.

But it was in the same dormitory where eight inmates held six employees hostage for 76 hours in March 1998. All eight hostage-takers were killed when an elite force stormed the RDC to rescue the hostages. A hostage was killed while five others were wounded.

"It's all over"

"It's all over," Dureza declared as he stepped out of the RDC gates and met with the press. Dureza said Manero assured him he will not escape anymore and will face the murder charges against him.

"Manero assured me that he won't do anything to embarrass me," Dureza said.

This is the third time Manero has been recommitted to the penal farm here.

Manero was transferred from Muntinlupa to this penal farm on Feb. 21, 1989 but on April 7 that year, Prisons Director Meliton Goyena ordered his transfer back to Muntinlupa. Goyena said Manero's transfer here was "premature" and "erroneous." He returned to Muntinlupa on April 21 that year.

On Oct. 21, 1991, Manero returned to the penal farm here. On Feb. 25, 1992, then Prisons Supt. Leon Casanova granted Manero's request to transfer to the penal farm's Juan Acenas sub-colony, from where he escaped on May 13.

His escape was not made public until October that year when then North Cotabato Rep. Gregorio Andolana saw him outside the library of the Notre Dame University, waiting for then President Fidel Ramos.

Manero was sent back to Muntinlupa on Oct. 21 that year.

'Gift to girl'

In General Santos City, lawyer Thomas Falgui, who earlier resigned as Manero's counsel, said Manero gave the three-day-old foal he rescued from a gully to 8-year-old Alysa Ting, daughter of an employee in Falgui's office.

Manero carried the horse with him during the helicopter trip from his mountain hideout to General Santos City on Sunday.

Falgui said the girl visited Manero while he was detained inside the Sarangani Provincial Jail.

Falgui also called on the media to stop calling Manero a "priest butcher, cannibal and brain eater."

"Even if he's a convict, he's still human (and should be accorded) dignity," he said.

Falgui said news reports have portrayed Manero as a monster "when in fact he's not."

The media, he said, should also highlight the good side of Manero.

As paramilitary leader, Manero, he said, helped a lot of people. "He knows how to care, especially for children."

Warning

Falgui said he resigned as Manero's counsel because of the "interference" of Manero's wife, Julie Yee.

"I have reliable sources that Nong Bocs (Manero) hid under the trunk of Julie Yee's car," he said.

Yee had denied she helped Manero escape.

Falgui said Yee has "her own agenda" and "I do not want to be part of it." *With reports from Aquiles Zonio, Carolyn O. Arguillas and Armand Nocum*

GUT FEELING

Jordan playing anew–owner

WASHINGTON—The owner of the Washington Wizards said he has a "gut feeling" that Michael Jordan will return to the NBA next season.

In a story running on the front page of Tuesday's Washington Post, Wizards majority owner Abe Pollin said he believes the odds are that Jordan will play for the Wizards next season. Pollin stressed that he did not know if Jordan has made up his mind yet.

"The odds are that he's going to come back," Pollin said. "I think he's going to decide whether he's going to be able to play at the level that is satisfying to him."

Jordan, a part-owner and president of basketball operations for Washington, has consistently said that he's 99.9 percent sure he'll never play again.

He was unavailable for comment Monday night.

Pollin stressed to the Post that he was simply stating his opinion. "What I said was my gut feeling," Pollin said. "It's his decision. I didn't think he'd come back when I first heard the talk. But when Mario Lemieux came back to the Penguins, it stirred something in Michael."

Lemieux, one of the owners of the Pittsburgh Penguins, returned to the ice in December after retiring at the end of the 1997 season and led the Penguins into the playoffs.

Pollin said he thinks Jordan, who won six NBA titles with the Chicago Bulls, is going through a self-examination of sorts. Jordan has been working out recently, including practicing with the Wizards.

"He's certainly working at seeing if he feels like he can" return, Pollin said. "He's told me when he has something to say about it, he'll tell me.

"We'd welcome him with open arms," said Pollin, whose team's 18-59 record is third worst in the NBA. "It's his decision. It would have to be in his interest to come back and he would not do it unless he could perform at the standard he set for himself.

Meanwhile, Allen Iverson scored 37 points and Dikembe Mutombo added 12 points, 18 rebounds and seven blocks as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Boston Celtics 108-95 Monday night, clinching first place and home-court advantage throughout the East playoffs.

The last time Philadelphia had the conference's best record was 1983.

Antoine Walker scored 26 and Paul Pierce had 23 for Boston, which fell 2 games behind Indiana for the final playoff spot in the East.

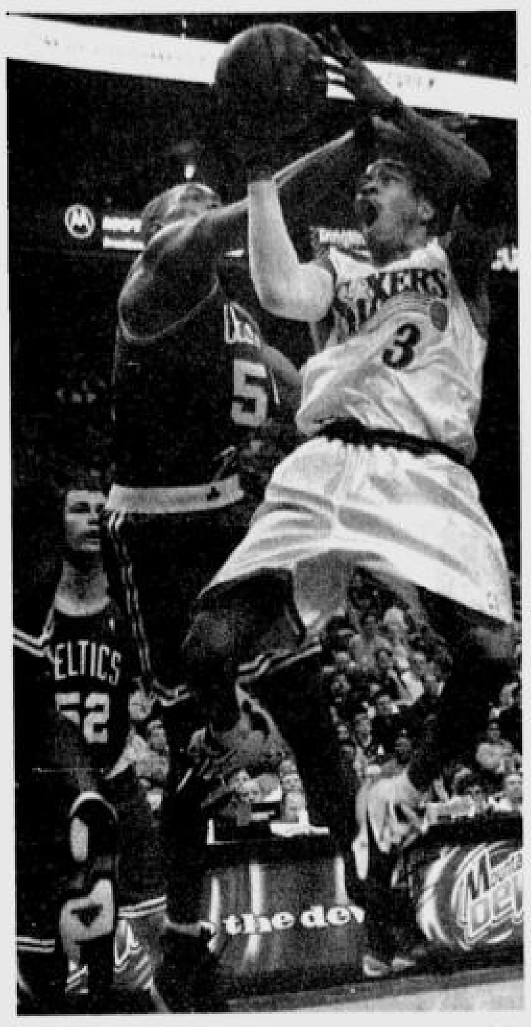
Complete results

Philadelphia 108, Boston 95; Detroit 81, Atlanta 69; New York 113, Charlotte 98; Indiana 100, Washington 78; Utah 96, Houston 81. *AP*

Baguio entry leads winners

BAGUIO—Club netter Andrew Tangalin blanked Kendall Abad, 6-0, 6-0, and Ed Michael Putis of Cotabato City nipped Abraham Bergado, 7-6, 7-5, to lead the opening-day winners Monday in the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Burnham Park claycourts here.

Tangalin and Abad advanced in the boys' 12-under division together with Gerard Ngo, who vested Vanlee Budod, 6-0, 6-1; Mark Balce, a 1-6, 6-0, 6-3 victor over Patrick Arevalo; Paul Papa, who ousted Chalikis Alawas, 6-3, 6-3; Gregory Atos, a 2-6, 6-0, 6-1 victor past Jay Mamawal; and Chester Bayawan, who blasted Mark Diaz, 6-1, 6-1.



PHILADELPHIA ace Allen Iverson (right) is fouled in midair by Boston's Antoine Walker during their game Monday in Philadelphia. The 76ers triumphed, 108-95. AP

4 teams fight for standings

PBA STANDINGS

	W	L
Shell	9	5
SMB	9	5
Pop Cola	8	5
Purefoods	8	6
Red Bull	7	6
Alaska	7	7
Ginebra	6	7
Mobiline	6	8
Tanduay	5	9
Sta. Lucia	3	10

GAMES TODAY
(Ynares Center)
5:15 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Pop Cola
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Red Bull

EXCEPT for their quarterfinal placings, there's nothing much at stake when Sta. Lucia Realty, Pop Cola, Barangay Ginebra and Batang Red Bull mix it up today at the close of the PBA All-Filipino elimination at the Ynares Center.

With the eight-team quarterfinal cast already complete and the top-ranked squads – which will enjoy twice-to-beat privilege—already known, the clubs will only be fighting for the standings and a measure of pride going to the next round.

Whatever happens, the ousted Realtors will end up the last team this conference, while the Panthers will remain at No. 3 when they collide at 5:15 p.m.

Some complications will occur in the 7:30 p.m. second game between the Gin Kings and the Thunder.

A win by the Thunder will give them the No. 5 ranking and the chance to face Purefoods, which they need to beat twice. Otherwise, the Gins end up either No. 5 or 6 – depending on their margin of victory – and take on either Pop Cola or Purefoods.

Quarterfinal round pitting No. 1 team against No. 8 and No. 4 against No. 5 begins on Sunday at the Makati Coliseum.

To lure the Holy Week crowd to watch the doubleheader, the PBA offers buy-one, take-one tickets for employees and students watching the games. Fans only need to show school or company ID to avail of the promo.

Ramirez, Ong top Subic races

SUBIC—Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA and Ferdie Ong of Rota- Speedwelle-Outlast Battery opened their respective title campaigns in style, sweeping to victory in the first two rounds in the Petron Blaze super saloon category of the 2001 SVI-Subic Grand Prix before a big holiday crowd at the Subic International Raceway.

Ramirez, who took up the cudgels for a tightly knit family long associated with car racing, seized top honors in the season-opening round following a tight battle with Nilo Pazcoguin of Tom's-Auto Trend and Mike Aguilar of Caltex.

And Ong, looking to follow up a surprisingly strong finish last year, dominated the second round with superb driving maneuvers over Pazcoguin and two-time champion and top favorite Jody Coseteng of Toyota-Team Tom's.

Ong's teammate, Benedict de la Cruz, finished fourth in both races, which were held as part of the "Asian Festival of Speed."

A big disappointment was multi-awarded Mike Potenciano of MP Turbo-Gulf Oil, who struggled to eighth place in the second round of the Petron-sponsored super saloon race.

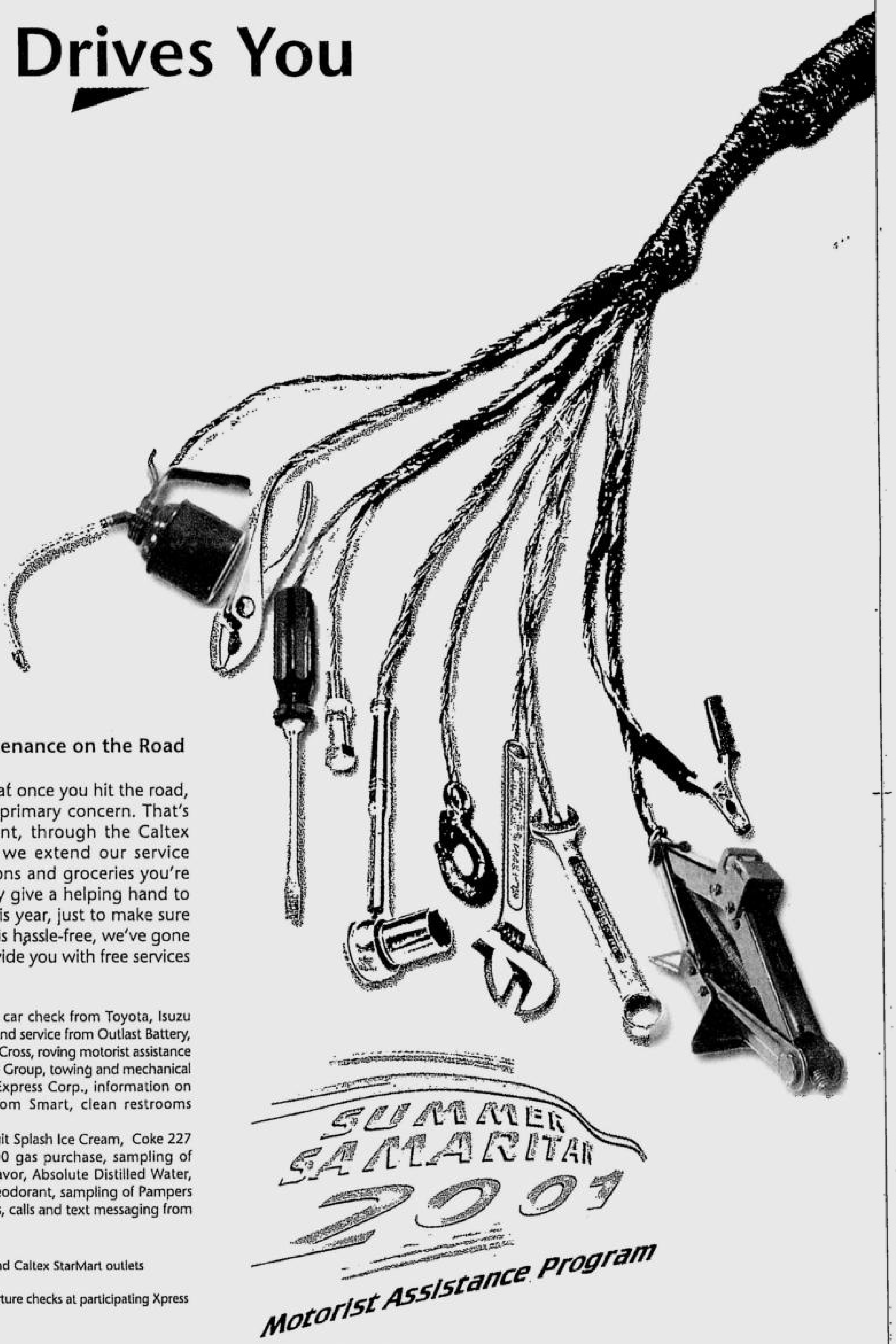
The same order of finishers will also take effect in the first two rounds of the Philippine National Touring Car Championships, although 1999 champion Miguel Ramirez of Petron-SRA will be added to the list of entries.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Diva 2. Golden Figure 3. Sealed With A Kiss 4. Adam's Call
Race 2—1. Silver Lining 2. Dinner Dress 3. Kitana
Race 3—1. Corridor of Power 2. Ocean Friend 3. Nagniningning 4. True to Life/Leverage Buyer
Race 4—1. The Serpent 2. Batang Pier 3. Due Process 4. Princess Helena
Race 5—1. Palace Hero 2. Sis Boom Bah/Mighty Warrior 3. Sunny Sky 4. King Edward
Race 6—1. Very Sahrp 2. Green Buck 3. Boy Yoski 4. Gliding Task
Race 7—1. Win More 2. Khazan 3. Yoko Lady 4. Green Leaves
Race 8—1. Brazen Truth 2. Breakaway Artist 3. Ricastar
Race 9—1. Native Talent 2. Marvelous Jay 3. Golden State 4. Enjoy the Moment
Race 10—1. Bemedalled Ruler 2. Party Princess 3. Opening Prospect 4. Dixie Melody

NO columns today due to space constraints.



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Aikman's NFL career ends

IRVING, Texas—Troy Aikman's NFL career ended with the Dallas Cowboys after all. The three-time Super Bowl champion announced his retirement at a news conference Monday at Texas Stadium, where he starred for 12 seasons. Aikman had four concussions in his last 20 starts—giving him 10 in his career—and has a degenerative back problem. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

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IOC chief meets Gloria today

By June Navarro

JUAN Antonio Samaranch, chief of the International Olympic Committee, will be the first important sports figure to visit Malacañang since President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over as President.

The 81-year-old Samaranch, who arrived last night from Palau Island on board a private jet, is scheduled to meet the President at 10 a.m. to cap his one-day official visit to the country.

Prior to the President's courtesy call, Samaranch will have a breakfast meeting with Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Commission officials, national sports association presidents and members of the media at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Shortly after lunch, Samaranch and his party will fly to Singapore.

NOC relations director Pere Miro, Onoc president Richard Gosper, Onoc secretary general Robin Mitchell, Olympic Solidarity project officer Nicole Girard-Savoy and personal assistant Annie Inchauspe form Samaranch's party.

Among those who will grace his visit are IOC representative to the Philippines Francisco Elizalde, POC chair Robert Aventajado, POC president Celso Dayrit, PSC chair Carlos Tuason, former international federation presidents Florencio Campomanes (Fide) and Gonzalo G. Puyat II (Fiba) and POC secretary general Romeo Ribaño.

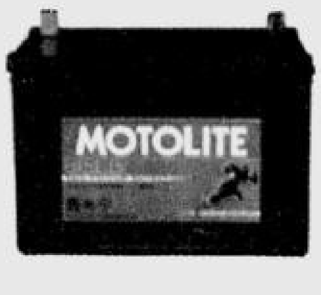
Samaranch is set to retire this year after a fruitful 20-year stint. In 1980, he succeeded Lord Killannin as IOC president before the Moscow Olympic Games.

He first visited the country in the early '80s during the time of former Gintong Alay chief Michael Keon.

In 1989, he returned to the country with Gov. Jose C. Sering at the helm of the POC.

MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

SAMARANCH



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Ana Freezer subdues Giv; Pharma wins

By Dennis U. Eroa

RONALD Tubid sizzled as Ana Freezer Kings tripped Giv Beauty Soap, 81-71, last night to seize solo second spot in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Earlier, PharmaQuick stunned defending champion Welcoat Paints, 85-81, in overtime.

The Kings jumped the gun on the bewildered Soap Masters as they posted their third win in four games. It was the second straight win for coach and team owner Rudy Mendoza. Giv tasted its first setback after a 2-0 start.

Trailing most of the way, PharmaQuick shocked Welcoat with a dazzling fourth-quarter surge, then pounced on the Paintmasters' scattered plays in the extension to improve its record to 2-2.

For the third time in four games, the Paintmasters allowed an easy win to escape from their hands. They bowed to Shark Energy Drink and Ateneo-Pioneer, respectively, after surrendering double-digit advantages in the homestretch.

Against the PharmaQuick dribblers, the Paintmasters seemed ready for a stroll as they even took a huge 58-37 lead, 2:36 remaining in the third quarter. The Welcoat gallery was already celebrating in delight as Ren Ren Ritualo waxed hot from all angles, while PharmaQuick played without fire and intensity.

Things, however, suddenly went awry for Welcoat in the fourth quarter. The Paintmasters were still ahead, 69-57, 3:20 left when coach Junel Baculi made a coaching mistake. Baculi replaced defender Cali Orfrecio with the out-of-sync Jojo Manalo and then fielded in Eugene Tan for Celino Cruz.

The scores:

PHARMAQUICK 85—Dacia 24, Avenido 15, Lanete 15, Rodriguez 11, Jabar 7, Lapinid 5, Lim 2, Jones 2, Romero 2, Canoneo 0, Veloz 0.

WELCOAT 81—Ritualo 22, Tan 13, Encarnacion 11, Manalo 8, De Ocampo 7, Canlas 6, Patrimonio 4, Tolentino 4, Cruz 4, Orfrecio 2, Suba 0.

Quarters: 17-20, 28-40, 45-60, 69-69, 85-81 (OT.

Bush hails Woods

WASHINGTON— President George W. Bush has congratulated golfer Tiger Woods by telephone for his stunning victory at the Masters in Augusta, Georgia, the White House said Monday.

The president, better known as self-described "baseball fanatic," called Woods late Sunday and praised the 25-year-old for his fourth successive Major win, said Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer.

Woods became the first golfer in history to hold all four professional Major titles at one time. *AFP*

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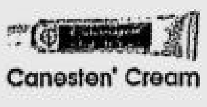

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CPD rates lowest in drive vs drugs A18
New police chief probed for release of suspects A18

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Bare Eye: There once was a holy Holy Week A18
Lagman driver accuses cop of beating him up A18

Suspects in slay of prosecutor's son linked to killing of cop

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE TWO men accused of the April 2 ambush of the son of a Manila prosecutor have also been tagged as the ones who killed a former Manila policeman in Pasig on March 6.

Parañaque City chief of police Supt. Ronald Estilles told the Inquirer that investigators have linked suspects Rolly Tonion and Jun Reyes Soriano to the ambush of SPO4 Ed Benavidez, formerly of the Western Police District.

Tonion and Soriano were arrested in Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila on Friday for the murder of Francis Orda, son of Manila Prosecutor Domingo Orda.

"The way in which Benavidez was killed was very similar to the way (Francis) Orda was ambushed," Estilles said.

Estilles believed that Manila barangay captain Ligaya Santos had something to do with the murders.

Police revealed that Benavidez operated a fleet of FX taxis based in Liwasang Bonifacio, where the suspects worked as dispatchers.

Estilles said that after the two were arrested, Santos went to his office on Monday to work for their release. The barangay official also admitted to the Parañaque police chief that the two worked for her.

But she vehemently denied any involvement in the ambush of Orda, Estilles said.

Police said Benavidez and Santos resented each other and suspected that the former policeman was killed because of it.

Estilles said charges have already been

SUSPECTS/ A18

2 youths slain in 2 gang wars

BY ALCUIN PAPA
AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

TWO gang wars left two young men dead in Makati early yesterday morning and in Caloocan City Monday night.

Dead in Makati from a gunshot wound in the head was Zaldy Mejarito, 19, of 1180 Batangas St., Barangay Pio del Pilar, Makati City.

Majarito died while undergoing treatment at the Makati Medical Center.

Investigation by PO3 Allan Esquillo of the Makati Police homicide section showed that the shooting happened at about 5:15 a.m. at the cor-

2 YOUTHS/ A18

FOR REAL
This unidentified woman is not a participant in a Lenten street drama. She was a member of an urban poor group that staged a protest rally on Don Chino Roces Bridge (former Mendiola) near Malacañang on Monday. She was trying to go through a police barricade when she fainted. ERIK ARAZAS

Crime victims, survivors hold Way of the Cross

BY JEROME ANING

ABOUT 100 victims and survivors of heinous crimes, and their families yesterday morning staged their version of the Way of the Cross in Manila to urge the government to implement the death penalty and speed up the criminal justice process in the country.

The participants, who belong to the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), stopped and prayed outside various government offices that stand for the so-called "five pillars" of the criminal justice system.

They also took turns in carrying a large, heavy wooden cross that was inscribed with the names of victims of heinous crimes whose cases are being handled with the help of the VACC.

The victims asked for a more speedy solution and prosecution of the cases pending in courts and for President Macapagal to rescind her order commuting the death sentences of hundreds of prisoners convicted of heinous crimes.

VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez said that proof of the "slow turning of the wheels of justice" in the country is the fate of the criminal cases which the group has been handling.

He said that since VACC was formed in 1998, it has assisted in more than 400 criminal cases, about 35 of which have been only promulgated.

He said many of the cases would not have even progressed without the group's Court Watch Unit.

The procession, dubbed the "Kalbaryo ng mga Biktima," began about 9 a.m. at the VACC office and the Sta. Maria Goretti parish church on United Nations Avenue. It stopped at the Western Police District headquarters, the National Bureau of Investigation, Supreme Court, Department of Justice, Court of Appeals, Manila City Hall, Office of the Ombudsman, and Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang Palace.

"Jesus Christ at least was innocent when he was put to death, but the ones we want executed are proven sinners, those convicted by the court after a fair trial and whose cases were affirmed by the Supreme Court," Jimenez said.

"With the suspension of executions, the present administration has shown signs of weakness by letting itself be dictated (upon) by some sectors who want this law eventually abolished," he said.

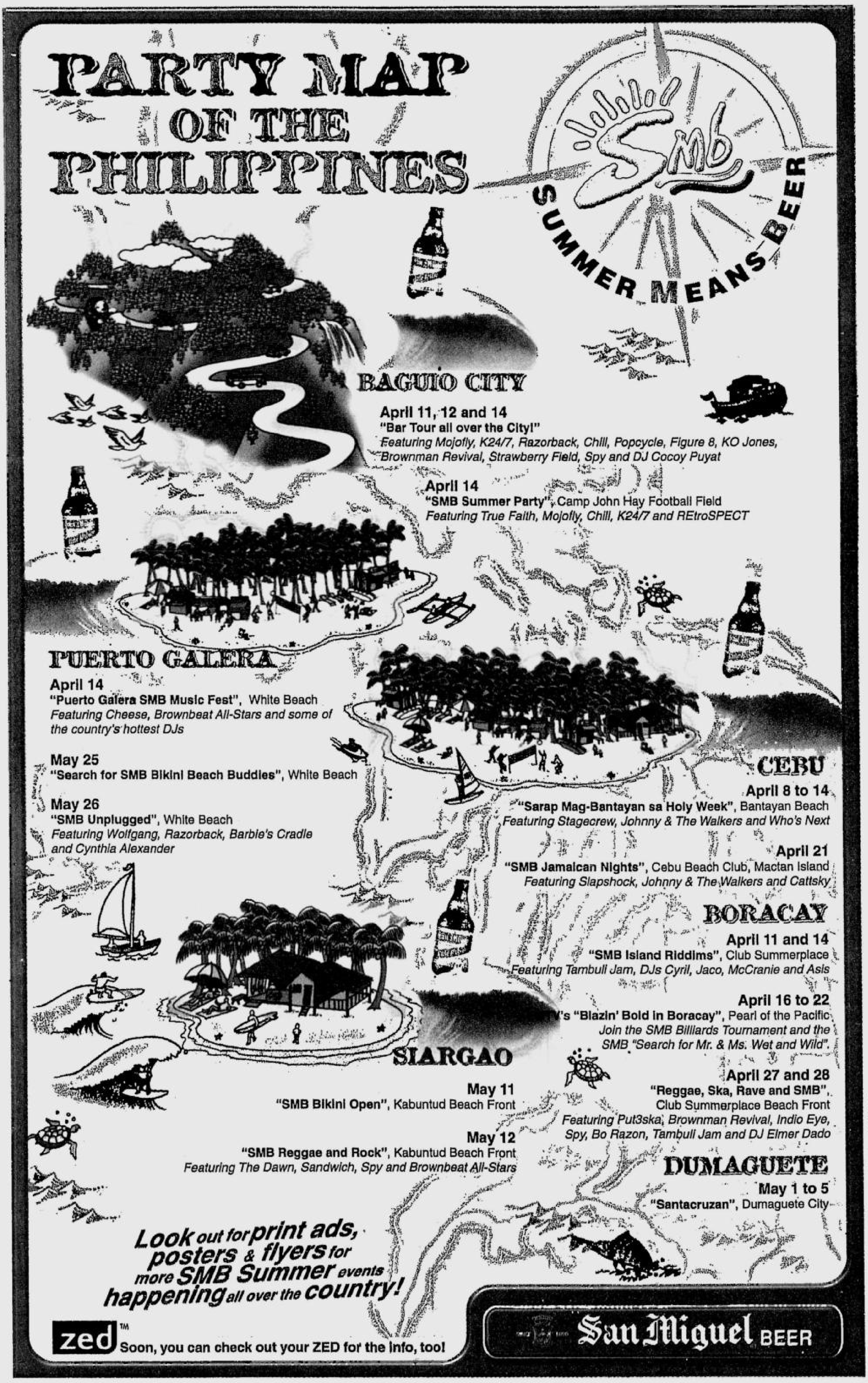
VACC and other anti-crime groups earlier assailed President Macapagal's decision to commute the death sentences of prisoners convicted of heinous crime. They claimed that the Roman Catholic Church and other religious groups were behind Malacañang's decision.

Jimenez said that the death penalty law, which took effect in 1994, still has to be fully implemented. He said the law had not been given the chance to prove its deterring effect on crime because the previous administrations "showed no backbone in implementing (it)."

"Victims of crimes are not blood-thirsty advocates of capital punishment," Jimenez stressed. "We value life and call for its preservation. That's why we view violence and senseless killings of the victims (as) a waste of human life.

"But the law is the law no matter how harsh. And it should be implemented and applied to all (who were) found guilty."

VACC, which is running for a seat in Congress under the partly-list system, vows to propose laws speeding up the resolution of criminal cases and to oppose any move to scrap the death penalty.



PARTY MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES

SMB SUMMER MEANS BEER

BAGUIO CITY
April 11, 12 and 14
"Bar Tour all over the City!"
Featuring Mojofly, K24/7, Razorback, Chili, Popcycle, Figure 8, KO Jones, Brownman Revival, Strawberry Field, Spy and DJ Cocoy Puyat
April 14
"SMB Summer Party", Camp John Hay Football Field
Featuring True Faith, Mojofly, Chili, K24/7 and REtroSPECT

PUERTO GALERA
April 14
"Puerto Galera SMB Music Fest", White Beach
Featuring Cheese, Brownbeat All-Stars and some of the country's hottest DJs
May 25
"Search for SMB Bikini Beach Buddies", White Beach
May 26
"SMB Unplugged", White Beach
Featuring Wolfgang, Razorback, Barbie's Cradle and Cynthia Alexander

CEBU
April 8 to 14
"Sarap Mag-Bantayan sa Holy Week", Bantayan Beach
Featuring Stagecrew, Johnny & The Walkers and Who's Next
April 21
"SMB Jamaican Nights", Cebu Beach Club, Mactan Island
Featuring Slapshock, Johnny & The Walkers and Cattsky

BORACAY
April 11 and 14
"SMB Island Riddims", Club Summerplace
Featuring Tambuli Jam, DJs Cyril, Jaco, McCranie and Asis
April 16 to 22
's "Blazin' Bold in Boracay", Pearl of the Pacific
Join the SMB Billiards Tournament and the SMB "Search for Mr. & Ms. Wet and Wild".
April 27 and 28
"Reggae, Ska, Rave and SMB", Club Summerplace Beach Front
Featuring Put3ska, Brownman Revival, Indio Eye, Spy, Bo Razon, Tambuli Jam and DJ Elmer Dado

SIARGAO
May 11
"SMB Bikini Open", Kabuntud Beach Front
May 12
"SMB Reggae and Rock", Kabuntud Beach Front
Featuring The Dawn, Sandwich, Spy and Brownbeat All-Stars

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San Miguel BEER

CPD rates lowest in drive vs drugs

By Alcuin Papa

THE CENTRAL Police District, which covers Quezon City, has the lowest performance evaluation rating among the five Metro Manila police districts in the campaign against illegal drugs.

The evaluation for the month of March was conducted by the National Capital Region Police Office Metro Manila Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG), based in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig.

Out of a possible 100 points, the CPD got only 42.5 points in the evaluation, according to a report prepared by Senior Supt. Eugenio Acuna, MMDEG group commander. The Inquirer obtained a copy of the report.

The Northern Police District, which covers Caloocan City, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, ranked the highest among the five police districts, with 71.49 points.

A close second was the Western Police District, which has jurisdiction over Manila, with 71.07 points.

The Eastern Police District, which covers the cities of Marikina, Pasig, Antipolo and Mandaluyong and the town of San Juan, ranked third with a score of 56.1.

The Southern Police District, which covers the cities of Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa and the town of Taguig, ranked fourth with a rating of 50.74 points.

Among city police stations, the Muntinlupa Police Station ranked first in the illegal drugs campaign. The Caloocan Police Station ranked second and the Las Piñas Police Station ranked third.

The Muntinlupa and Las Piñas stations are under the SPD.

To make up for its poor showing at the district level, the CPD's Police Station 3 in Sangandaan topped the rankings among the numbered police stations with 78.9 points.

The WPD Station 5 in Ermita and Station 7 on J. Abad Santos in Tondo were second and third.

The rankings were based on points given to the administrative, intelligence, investigation and operations divisions of the drug enforcement units of the police districts.

New police chief probed over 'tupada' suspects

By Philip C. Tubeza

ONLY a week after he was appointed to the post, the new Central Police District (CPD) director is in hot water for allegedly trying to let off the hook 26 men arrested for holding an illegal cockfight in Fairview, Quezon City.

Director Romeo Peña, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief, ordered a thorough investigation to determine if the new CPD chief, Senior Supt. Rodolfo Thor, really tried to convince Supt. Ernesto Collado, Fairview police station chief, to release the suspects, who were arrested in a raid Monday noon.

"Because he is new in the job, we want to first have a thorough investigation of the allegations against him," Peña said. "And this includes Supt. Collado. He (Thor) will be dismissed from his post or from the service if the findings show he is guilty."

Thor's troubles started after Collado's men raided the *tupada* (illegal cockfight) that a Michael Sabban operated in Sitio Ruby, Barangay Fairview, Quezon City, around 12:30 p.m. Monday.

Sabban's brother, a colonel in the defense department, allegedly asked for Thor's help. Thor allegedly talked to Collado and tried to convince him to release the 26 suspects.

Members of the Central Police District press corps heard Collado talking on the cellular phone.

"The station chief was very courteous to the person he was talking to," a witness said. "He was explaining that the raiding team also included media men and that the suspects could post bail."

When Collado ended the conversation, he allegedly murmured that he was not going to follow the orders he got.

"He said he was going to pursue the charges since he was nearing retirement already," the witness said.

Thor denied that he pressured Collado to release the suspects. While he admitted that he talked to Collado, Thor told the Inquirer that he ordered the station chief to proceed with the filing of the charges against the suspects.

"This is just a misunderstanding," Thor said in a phone interview. "I told him to proceed with the inquest of the suspects. Why would I try to work on behalf of the suspects when they can post bail once they are jailed?"

He also denied he knew any of the 26 suspects, who were charged yesterday before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office. The fiscal set their bail at P10,000 each.

Lagman driver accuses cop of beating him up

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DRIVER of former Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman yesterday accused a policeman from the Quezon City Hall's special traffic action team of beating him up and threatening to kill him during a traffic altercation.

Lagman is running against incumbent Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay in the May 14 elections to represent Quezon City's fourth district in Congress.

The driver, Esteban T. Vasquez Jr., 48, of No. 17 Matiyaga Street, Barangay Central, Quezon City, told investigators his attacker identified himself only as SPO3 De Vera, of the city hall's Stag (Special Traffic Action Grbup).

Vazquez said that the suspect, who appeared drunk, poked his gun at him and took his driver's license.

Vasquez said he was driving a Besta van (VEH 559) around 10 p.m. and was at the corner of E. Rodriguez and T. Gener streets when a speeding motorcycle "with blinkers" suddenly appeared at his side.

The motorcycle was so fast that it collided with the van, he said. This infuriated the suspect who was driving the motorcycle and who shouted invectives at Vasquez, the driver said.

He said he continued to drive and he noticed the alleged policeman driving after him. Vasquez said that on 11th Jamboree Street, he stopped his van and De Vera came up to him. The suspect allegedly poked his gun at Vasquez while asking for his driver's license.

Vasquez surrendered his license but he said the suspect did not give him a receipt. De Vera beat him up, he said.

The beating only stopped when Vasquez's cellular phone rang. It was Lagman on the line, he said.

The next day, another member of Lagman's staff, who witnessed the beating, saw De Vera in a restaurant in Quezon City. De Vera allegedly said he would return Vasquez's license if the driver signed an affidavit promising not to press charges against him. *With Sharon C. Jaylo*

Capadocia, 67

GUILLERMO P. Capadocia Jr., 67, of Manila and Antipolo City, passed away on April 9 at the Makati Medical Center after a lingering illness.

His body lies at the Arlington Memorial Chapel on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City until this morning, April 11, after which it will be brought to No. 17 Manuel Quezon Avenue Ext., Antipolo City.

Interment will be on April 14 at 3 p.m. at Heaven's Gate Memorial Gardens on Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

Guillermo is the elder brother of DSWD Assistant Secretary Celia Capadocia Yangco and Joe Capadocia, National chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines and former vice president of the National Press Club.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, April 11, 2001
Wednesday of Holy Week

1st Reading: Is 50:4-9
Gospel: Mt 26:14-25

One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went off to the chief priests and said, "How much will you give me if I hand him over to you?" They promised to give him thirty pieces of silver, and from then on he kept looking for the best way to hand him over to them.

On the first day of the Festival of the Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said to him, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal for you?" Jesus answered, "Go into the city, to the house of a certain man, and tell him: 'The Master says: My hour is near, and I will celebrate the Passover with my disciples in your house."

The disciples did as Jesus had ordered and prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, Jesus sat at table with the Twelve. While they were eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you: one of you will betray me." They were deeply distressed and asked him in turn, "You do not mean me, do you, Lord?"

He answered, "He who will betray me is one of those who dips his bread in the dish with me. The Son of Man is going as the Scriptures say he will. But alas for that one who betrays the Son of Man; better for him not to have been born." Judas, who was betraying him, also asked, "You do not mean me, Master, do you?" Jesus replied, "You have said it."

Commentary:

There can be a discourse on betrayal only within the circle of intimacy. The Passover meal was and is the most intimate of Jewish meals. It is confined within the Jewish household and excludes anyone not belonging to that. This constitutes the pathos of the scene. It was a very solemn moment—the Passover of the Master with his "household:" the chosen Twelve. One of them was the betrayer. Judas hoped that provoking Jesus' arrest would fulfill his ambitions in the messianic times. The early Church read this episode in the sale of Joseph by his brothers. Indeed, he who was rejected by his very own became the very source of all's salvation. Hold together the contradictions of life and in the end you will see the meaning of it all.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Effect of foreign judgment— Generally, in the absence of a special compact, no sovereign is bound to give effect within its dominion to a judgment rendered by a tribunal of another country; however, the rules of comity, utility and convenience of nations have established a usage among civilized states by which final judgments of foreign courts of competent jurisdiction are reciprocally respected and rendered efficacious under certain conditions that may vary in different countries. In this jurisdiction, a valid judgment rendered by a foreign tribunal may be recognized insofar as the immediate parties and the underlying cause of action are concerned so long as it is convincingly shown that there has been an opportunity for a full and fair hearing before a court of competent jurisdiction; the trial upon regular proceedings has been conducted, following due citation or voluntary appearance of the defendant and under a system of jurisprudence likely to secure an impartial administration of justice; and that there is nothing to indicate either a prejudice in court and in the system of laws under which it is sitting or fraud in procuring the judgment. A foreign judgment is presumed to be valid and binding in the country from which it comes, until a contrary showing on the basis of a presumption of regularity of proceedings and the giving of due notice in the foreign forum. [Reference: Rules of Court, Rule 39, Section 48] [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Philippine Aluminum Wheels, Inc. v. FASGI Enterprises, Inc., G.R. No. 137378, October 17, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

There once was a holy Holy Week

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT would seem silly, even barbarous, today but old people before us, meaning our immediate ancestors, thought it harmful for the soul to behave the usual way starting Holy Monday.

They paused and prayed. Paused some more and prayed even longer.

There would be no chopping of firewood, no fetching of water from the village well.

The whole atmosphere would instantly turn convalescent starting the first day of Holy Week.

In short, the entire human scenario would shift to slow-motion, with all the characters going about their limited chores in half-steps, as though they had just gotten out of sickbed, ever careful not so suffer a relapse.

They did talk, but in very hushed tones, if not exactly in whispers.

There was solid solemnity combined with deep, meaningful mourning.

The Lord was about to take his passionate trek to Calvary where he would next be sacrificed and nailed on the Cross.

* * *

Holy Week then, in short, was not yet the much-awaited break from the rat race.

There was no mad rush to the beaches, nor unholy, hollering exits to the provinces.

Holy Week was a period to sink into even deeper tedium, a time to repent, make amends, a long dry and colorless wait until the joyous ring of Resurrection the next Sunday.

Holy Week was then truly holy!

But those were the days when there was an abundance of trees around, and the Pasig was still the wonderful river which all of us could only dream of today.

Nick Jonquin, still tall and lean, remembers spending summer in their vacation house in Makati and swimming across to Mandaluyong, the other side they fondly called *ibayo*.

But our favorite National Artist for Literature also knew a very young, clean river where people came to wash their clothes.

Now, while he was able to celebrate the younger mountains of Hong Kong in his last visit—"I find myself/ older than they"—Joaquin could not sufficiently mourn the river of his youth.

The Pasig has not only grown ugly and very dirty; it has, in fact, died a thousand deaths.

* * *

The charming ways of our elders have themselves been washed away with the onrush of many noisy summers.

While we caught that period when meat became taboo on the table starting Holy Wednesday, meaning there would not be a single bit of *adobo*, *puchero* or *mechado* until Easter Sunday, Holy Week has deteriorated into one hell of a picnic. The theme among the young out on a frolic, even on Good Friday, is eat all you can.

Our elders, a dreamy uncle who played the violin for the national philharmonic orchestra, the grandfather, a great fisherman and carpenter rolled into one, a spinster aunt who tended the finest guava and mango orchard, nearly a hundred trees in that area now occupied by the Liberty Flour Mills, did spend precious summers in their quaint, unhurried corner of the world by the Pasig, then still a gem of a river.

They had all the trees, the blue skies, the harvested rice fields still radiant, sweet with the sight and scent of drying hay.

But no, they did not frolic, but instead found time to pause, half-exist only, each time Jesus Christ, our Dear Lord, started his painful, bloody trek to Calvary.

All normal activities shifted to low gear starting Holy Monday. The young river itself seemed to mourn, rolling very slowly, before the tireless flow to the western bend turned back to the direction of the Laguna de Bay, its mother and source.

Now, this could sound all too tired, useless, even barbarous.

But we also pause, quietly thankful to the Lord that we had witnessed all those great rituals of our ancestors which, to repeat, could seem pagan and empty to the young.

Yes, we were amazed spectators to that the old, silent theater when Holy Week was still truly holy. God Bless.

2 youths . . .

(From page A17)

ner of Mayor and San Antonio Streets in Barangay Pio del Pilar.

Police have not learned who or what started the rumble between the two groups of young men who included Mejarito.

But during a free-for-all between the two groups, shots were fired from a gun of still undetermined caliber, police said.

As bystanders and members of Mejarito's group rushed Mejarito to the hospital, members of the rival group fled the scene.

Police are still trying to identify who fired the gun that killed Mejarito.

In Caloocan, Cris Cielo, 19, of Salmon Street, Dagat-Dagatan, died instantly from a gunshot wound in the chest allegedly inflicted by Cherry Angeles, 26, of General San Miguel Street, Sangandaan, according to case investigator PO2 Edgar Manapat of the Caloocan Police Station Investigation and Intelligence Division.

Investigation showed that Cielo and members of the Never Peace Guide fraternity were at the corner of C-4 Road and Sabado Street in Barangay 8, Dagat-Dagatan when about 10 members of their rival group 99G challenged them to a fight.

Cielo's companions, Gener Onayan and Jerico Alvir, told police that Angeles and his 99G group got mad when their fraternity refused to accept the challenge.

But Angeles' group attacked Cielo's group anyway and a free-for-all ensued.

The fight was stopped only after Angeles allegedly shot Cielo in the chest with a homemade shotgun or "sumpak."

Police are now looking for Angeles.

Suspects . . .

(From page A17)

filed against Tonion and Soriano after witnesses identified them as the ones who ambushed and killed Francis. Santos, however, was not taken into custody.

Police said there had been at least three attempts on Prosecutor Orda's life. They believed that these attempts stemmed from a longstanding conflict between Santos and Orda's wife Reynalda.

Earlier, the Inquirer reported that a certain SPO4 Ocampo, who also operated a fleet of FX taxis in Liwasang Bonifacio, also came into conflict with Santos and had asked Prosecutor's Orda's help to deal with the barangay official.

Estilles said he is now working closely with Pasig chief of police Supt. John Sosito to pin down the killers of Benavidez.

Witnesses said three men ambushed and killed Francis as he was going home onboard his father's car.

Police are now looking for the third man who acted as a lookout during the ambush, Estilles said.

POLICE 'PABASA'

They also pray who fight crime. A "pabasa" table has been set up at the Western Police District headquarters on UN Avenue in Manila where officers and civilian employees join the traditional reading of the Filipino version of the Passion of Christ.

ERIK ARAZAS

It was buy-bust, not robbery, says cop who was shot in groin

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA policeman accused of trying to rob a messenger in Paco, Manila, yesterday said he was merely doing his duty when he accosted the courier for alleged drug peddling.

In a five-page affidavit taken while he was in the emergency room of the Ospital Ng Maynila, PO2 Luisito Morales, 42, a jail guard at the Western Police District, said he received a message about a drug deal going down in San Andres Bukid on Monday.

Morales said his informant called him on his cell phone and told him that a certain "Boy" was about to deliver shabu to a client in San Andres at about 10 a.m.

The "Boy" referred to turned out to be Ariel Silvio, 32, a messenger of the Pan-Asia currency exchange firm.

Morales told police that he and his informant went to Singalong Street in San Andres on board a motorcycle, and there the informant pointed the lawman to Silvio.

Morales claimed he properly identified himself as a policeman and accosted Silvio. He told investigators that he searched the messenger's bag and found a cache of illegal drugs inside.

"Morales tried to arrest Silvio, but the latter resisted even when he was already in handcuffs," said SPO4 Edgar Reyes of the WPD's general assignments section.

Morales said at that point, six to eight policemen reportedly with the WPD's special operations group and assigned to the City Hall's anti-littering unit arrived on the scene.

According to Morales, one of the lawmen pulled out his gun and shot him.

"When I was shot in the groin, I introduced myself as a police officer and even raised both my hands," Morales said. "But when I fell to the ground, one of them shot the back of my right arm. Then they handcuffed me and dragged me to their service vehicle."

Morales said the policemen also took Silvio to the station.

By then, the informant fled the scene on board his motorcycle, Morales said.

Earlier, Silvio told police that PO2 Morales, who was in plainclothes, held him up and even hit him.

He said the ALU policemen arrived in time to rescue him. He said one of the lawmen grappled with Morales' gun and it went off, hitting the latter on the groin.

GAS investigators told reporters that Silvio was carrying 126,000 cash, which was in an envelope inside his bag. Only P36,000, however, was left in the envelope when it was recovered.

Police also did not find any illegal substances in Silvio's bag. They said Morales was only a jail guard and should have coordinated with the drug enforcement section of the WPD or Paco station regarding the information he received instead of conducting an operation on his own.

The GAS would be calling in the ALU policemen to get their side of the matter.

Abalos warns drivers, illegal terminal operators

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday warned drivers and operators of illegal terminals that they would be facing a three-month suspension of license if they got caught.

Abalos also said he created a task force that would go after illegal terminal operators in Metro Manila.

The task force would be composed of MMDA traffic enforcers and personnel of the Philippine National Police, he said. Local government units would not be involved as this might result in political pressure on those running in the May 14 elections, he said.

But he noted that some illegal terminals were authorized by the local government units.

"Some city governments have even passed ordinances authorizing the use of certain thoroughfares as terminals of public utility vehicles," he said.

Agnes E. Donato

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6	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN (RI)
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	GLADIATOR (RI)
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
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11	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
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6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
7	DOLBY SURROUND	ACHILLES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
11	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

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2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT

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5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ACHILLES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
7	DTS	GLADIATOR (RI)
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
9	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
6	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

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3	RESERVE
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5	
6	

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2	KAILANGAN KO'Y IKAW
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
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5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
6 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
8	BABAENG PUTIK
9	UHAW SA INIT

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4	UHAW SA INIT
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6	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
7 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
8	OOPS TEKA LANG

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2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
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6 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
7 (DOLBY)	RESERVE

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2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA.
3	REVELATION
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Divisoria Mall
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2	UHAW SA INIT
3	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	GLADIATOR
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
6	KAILANGAN KO'Y IKAW

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2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3	REVELATION

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2	BABAENG PUTIK
3 (DTS)	GLADIATOR

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2 (DTS)	QUILLS
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4	GLADIATOR

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3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
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Today, Lorna Tolentino and Vic Vargas star in the religious movie, "Maranatha," 5 p.m. Child slavery is tackled in "Kailan Ka Magiging Akin," with Janice de Belen and Charo Santos, 7 p.m. Aga Muhlach and Alice Dixson team up in the drama "Hot Summer," 9 p.m.

On Holy Thursday, Lolita Rodriguez and Gina Alajar star in "Lucia," a movie about a mother's sacrifice, 5 p.m. Lotlot de Leon witnesses an apparition in "Nakausap Ko ang Birhen," 7 p.m. Aga Muhlach and Giselle Toengi experience marital problems in "Hinahanap-Hanap Kita," 9 p.m.

On Good Friday, Marijoy Adorable stars in the remake of "Trudis Liit," 5 p.m. Mat Ranillo joins an all-star cast as "Kristo," 7 p.m. Witness the mystery unfold in the lives of Charo Santos and Tommy Abuel in "Itim," 9 p.m.

On Black Saturday, join Shaina Magdayao, Serena Dalrymple and Christopher de Leon in the fanatasy movie, "Wansapanataym," 5 p.m. Catch John Regala and Beth Tamayo in the action-drama, "Bukas Bibitayin si Itay," 7 p.m. Enter the world of extras in "Batang Pro," with Gerald Madrid and Ana Capri, 9 p.m.

On Easter Sunday, Redford White and Carding make viewers laugh in "Tarsan," 5 p.m. Robin Padilla and Jolina Magdangal team up in the cable premiere of the action-comedy, "Tunay na Tunay (Gets Mo, Gets Ko)," 7 p.m.

End your Holy Week with a smile as Ogie Alcasid, Earl Ignacio and Daisy Reyes star in the comedy, Nanggigigil Ako sa Iyong Kagandahan," 9 p.m.

Pinoy Blockbuster Channel airs on SkyCable, SunCable and other quality cable operators nationwide.

Ripley's Easter egg hunt

REGISTRATION for the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum's Easter egg hunt in ongoing until April 13. Now on its 6th year, the Easter event has become an annual tradition of fun and excitement that families look forward to at the mall.

Assembly time on Easter Sunday, April 15, is at 1 p.m. at the Grand Atrium on Level 2 at Shangri-La Plaza Mall. The egg hunt will start at 2 p.m.

For inquiries, contact 636-1228 or 636-1225.

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	GLADIATOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
MIRAMAR	TUHOG / FIRST DESIRE
ODEON	GLADIATOR
ODEON-2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
ROBEN	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
TANDEM-1	UHAW SA INIT
TANDEM-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
TIMES	EYE OF BEHOLDER / REMEMBER THE TITANS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
QUEZON-1	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR	SEDUCER
REMAR-2	UHAW SA INIT
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-1	SECRET OF THE ANDES
CINEMA-2	MS CONGENIALITY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-64091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-2	BABAENG PUTIK
CINEMA-3	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	QUILLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAIT
CINEMA-6	PANABLA
CINEMA-7	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-8	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THEY NEST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-12	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-14	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	PROOF OF LIFE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE GIFT
CINEMA-2	GLADIATOR
CINEMA-3	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-4	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-5	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Voter education campaign on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ABS-CBN has launched its voter education campaign, "Vote for Me," in support, not of political candidates, but of young Filipinos and their future.

The network wishes to persuade voters not to succumb to the usual blandishments of corrupt politicians come election time, and to choose deserving and honest candidates, for their children's sake.

The campaign was launched on "TV Patrol" on April 2, and no less than President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** made a cameo appearance on "Home Along Da Riles" on April 5 to endorse the project.

The campaign has four phases: First to be focused on is "Looking Beyond One's Family" (vote not just for your kids' sake, but for all Filipino youths' welfare).

Next, "Think Long-Term" reminds voters that the people they choose will govern for at least four years, so they should be more conscientious and vigilant when making their choices.

"Obligation and Right to Vote" urges people to actually go to the polling precincts come election day, so their votes won't go to waste.

And "Awareness of Our Rights" stresses the benefits of voting for worthy candidates: good governance, health care, education, etc., with special attention paid to how they can benefit children.

The culminating activities area *"miting de avance"* TV special and actual election-day coverage in "Halalan 2001."

Feedback

FROM **Rodolfo R. Anaya** of San Pedro, Laguna: "I'm an avid reader of your column, which I find informative and inspiring. I particularly like the insightful critiques you make on films, like the one on 'Live Show.'

"I agree with your sharp observations on that movie, except for the part where you wrote that the film is ultimately done in by the character of its narrator, a sex show performer.

"You found the character too good to be true, considering the nature of his job and his being relatively poor and uneducated. For you, his being nice and eloquent despite his station in life was unreal and unbelievable.

"I disagree, because to find something wrong with those attributes is to judge a person solely on his background, disregarding the circumstances of his life. I believe that the inner make-up of a person is not dependent on education or poverty alone.

"To expect someone to be a brute or mean just because he is poor and uneducated is not fair, in the same way that it is not correct to think that all rich and educated people are good.

"But you have also fittingly pointed out that the film effectively shows that a person's work does not define him (sex workers performing the most shocking acts are also capable of loving and caring) . .." ***(To be concluded.)***

Music courses

THE MIRIAM College Center for Applied Music offers courses in piano, voice, violin, flute, guitar, cello and music theory from April 16 to May 17. Call 426-1822.

The Center also offers a course in the Fundamentals of Musicianship from May 2 to 28, an integrated course for music teachers on the grade school level.

Teacher is **Ruby Salvoza**, Ph.D. in Music Education. The course deals with theory, voice, piano and musical literature and history.

Workshops at holistic community center

AT THE Center for Health and Creative Arts, **Liza Magsaysay-Dyogi** is conducting a workshop on dynamic yoga until April 26.

On Thursdays until May 3, **Dada Sudhananda** teaches Basic Holistic Yoga. From April 16 to 18, a workshop on Filipino Babaylan spirit includes learning how to read and write the ancient Filipino script, *baybayin*, popularly known as the *alibata.*

From April 23 to May 9, **Jim Paredes** conducts the Tapping the Creative Universe workshp from 6 to 8 p.m., MWF. And **Nonoy Ozaeta** facilitates the Angel Workshp from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on April 23, 25 and 27 and May 2 and 3.

Chacra also offers workshops on inner work, amis and communion with God. Call 426-5368.

Despite positive surveys, Ralph Recto is not complacent

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

EVEN if he consistently ranks high in senatorial surveys, Rep. **Ralph Recto** (Batangas, 4th District) of the People Power Coalition (PPC) refuses to take it easy. In fact, he doesn't believe he's a shoo-in for the Senate and has been actively campaigning since Feb. 14.

"I'm on the road six days a week," Recto told the INQUIRER. "You always have to campaign, deliver your message and let the public realize its relevance. That's your responsibility as a candidate. There's so much to do."

Even if it means sacrificing his time for his family, Recto, who is married to actress **Vilma Santos**, makes it is a point to be visible on the campaign trail.

"The biggest sacrifice for me is I don't get to see my family, especially my son, **Ryan Christian,**" he said. "But Vilma and I take great pains to explain to him what I do."

It is believed that Recto will get elected to the Senate largely due to the popularity of his celebrity wife. While he's aware that Santos is indeed his secret weapon, he is careful not to use her in his campaign.

"I have been accused of promising that Vilma would be present in our sorties and when she doesn't show up, I am put in the defensive," Recto said. "But I never do that. Vilma doesn't join political rallies. But I don't see anything wrong with my wife campaigning for me. I guess that's (part of the) cons of having a popular wife."

Nor is he using "Mr. Vilma Santos" in the ballots to get the votes.

"When I first run for Congress, out of the 250,000 votes that I got, only 20 ballots had 'Mr. Vilma Santos' and those were not counted in my favor," Recto pointed out.

"I am very fortunate to have a beautiful and popular wife. Perhaps some people envy me for that. Half of the male population would love to be in my shoes."

When it comes to his political career, Recto banks on the legacy of his family name. He's the grandson of the late **Claro M. Recto**. His father is former assemblyman **Rafael Recto**.

"My family has been in public service for three generations and I'm proud to carry the name," Recto said. "I was elected in Congress at 28 and I've never lost in any election. An election is like a report card of what your constituents think about you.

"I carry the legacy of my family. If I do otherwise, my grandfather would be turning on his grave."

Although his family, friends and teachers compare him to his grandfather, the 37-year-old Recto says he does not even come close to the great patriarch of their clan.

"I fail in comparison with my grandfather," he said. "I'm not an intellect like him."

Admittedly, the Harvard-educated Recto would think about becoming president, too, when he was younger.

"That was ingrained in my thoughts before but becoming a father changed that," he said. "Today, I'm more concerned about my being a parent. I want my son to say when I die, 'I'm glad he is my father.'

"I believe this country will be a better place to live in when parents can ensure they can be better persons. Serving the country is like being a parent. You cannot be a good public servant if you are not a responsible parent."

Nine years in Congress has molded Recto's philosophy of governance, so that he feels he is now ready for the august halls of the Senate.

"Every year is like having a master's degree," he said. "I was able to ensure that no law is passed that will hamper the development of my district. I'm proudest about everything that I stood for and accomplished for my district."

Recto has been instrumental in the successful political career of his wife, who is also running for second term as mayor of Lipa.

"In the beginning, I was very careful about guiding Vilma into politics," he said. "I didn't want her to make a mistake because people would blame it on me. If she does something good *naman*, she will get the praise.

"It is my responsibility to see that she does well in her administration. I am very passionate in guiding her. Little by little, I was able to let go."

Running Lipa with Vilma is like running their household, according to Recto.

"We're a couple and there are disadvantages of a husband and wife being in the same field. At home, we have very intense verbal bouts about governance in Lipa. We clash. But more important, we both want reform and challenges."

Batangas has produced heroes and national leaders such as **Apolinario Mabini, Gregorio del Pilar, Teodoro Agoncillo, Jose P. Laurel** and **Claro M. Recto.**

Will it also produce the next president in Ralph Recto?

"Opportunities come your way," he maintained. "After the Senate, only time will tell."

* * *

FRESH from her best actress triumphs at the Metro Manila Film Festival, Urian and Famas, movie luminary **Gloria Romero** graces the big screen not in another dramatic performance, but in a light role as the mother of **Aga Muhlach** in the romantic-comedy, "Narinig Mo na Ba ang L8est?"

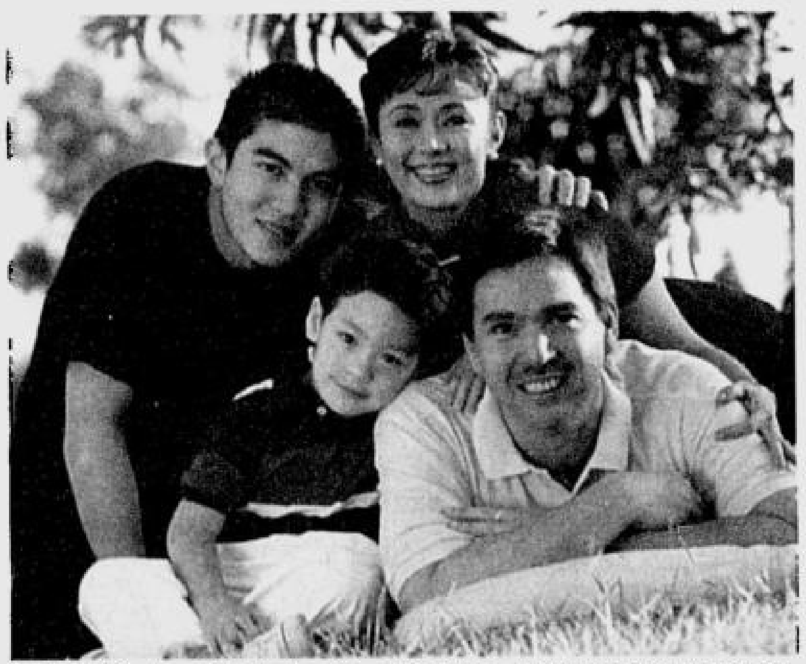
This only proves that Gloria is at ease both in comedy or drama, whether on the big screen or TV. She can easily shift gears. In "Tanging Yaman," she played the grand matriarch suffering from Alzheimer's disease. In "Narinig Mo na Ba ang L8est," Gloria switches to comedy.

"It's a welcome breather," says the veteran actress of her latest role. "After doing heavy drama in 'Tanging Yaman,' it's nice to be able to do this kind of role."

Comedy is an important part of Gloria's acting career. Back in the early '50s, when she rose to stardom as a contract star of Sampaguita Pictures, she won her first best actress trophy for a comic turn in "Dalagang Ilocana," where she played the lead.

"I am basically a comedienne," Gloria says. "On TV, I've played comic roles most of the time. Just because I'm doing heavy drama on the big screen doesn't mean I can't do comedy in the movies."

"Narinig Mo Na Ba ang L8est" is directed by **Jose Javier Reyes**. Playing leading lady to Aga Muhlach is **Joyce Jimenez**, his costar in the ABS-CBN weekly sitcom, "The Body and the Guard." Others in the cast are **Tessie Tomas, Bernard Palanca, Carlo Muñoz, Julia Clarete, Gabe Mercado, Mandy Ochoa** and **Ogie Diaz.**



RALPH Recto with his family—wife Vilma and son Ryan Christian, and Vilma's son, Luis Manzano.

ROMERO. Shifts to comedy

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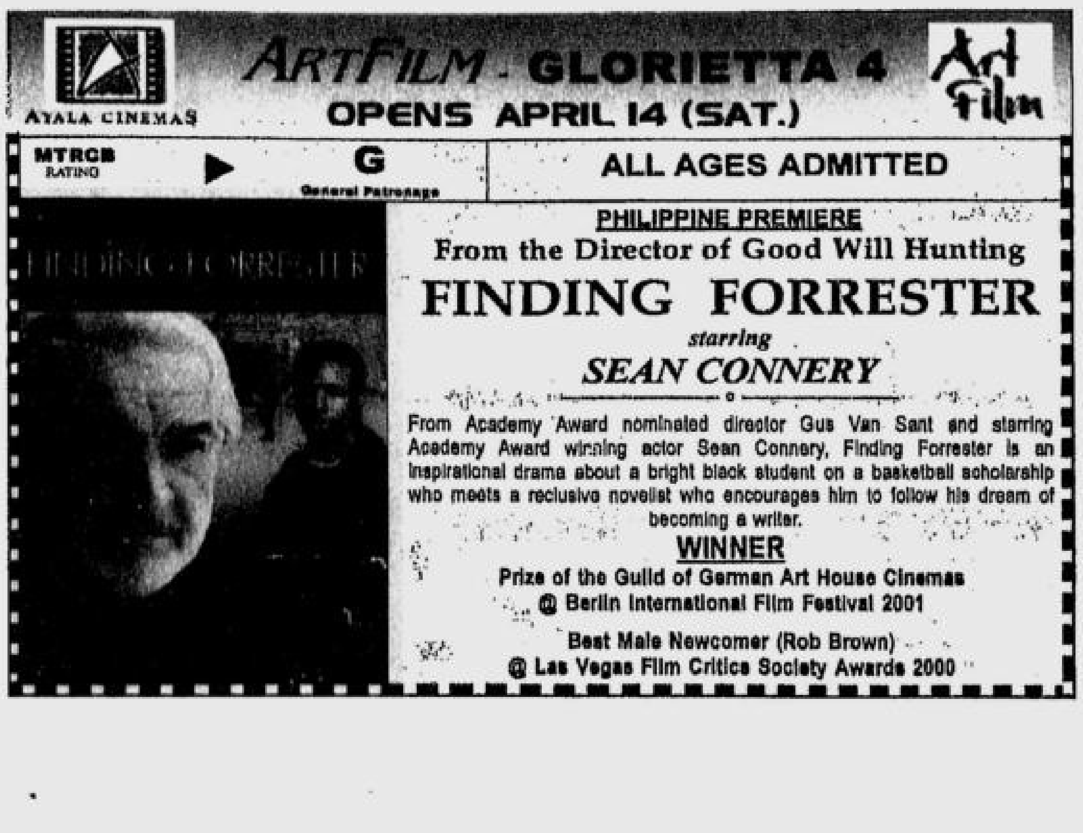
THE GIFT - P 13 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50	GLADIATOR - P 13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00	CROUCHING TIGER - P 13 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50
CHOCOLAT - P 13 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	ALMOST FAMOUS - R 18 11:45, 2:10, 4:25, 7:00	SAVE THE LAST DANCE - P 13 12:55, 3:25, 6:05



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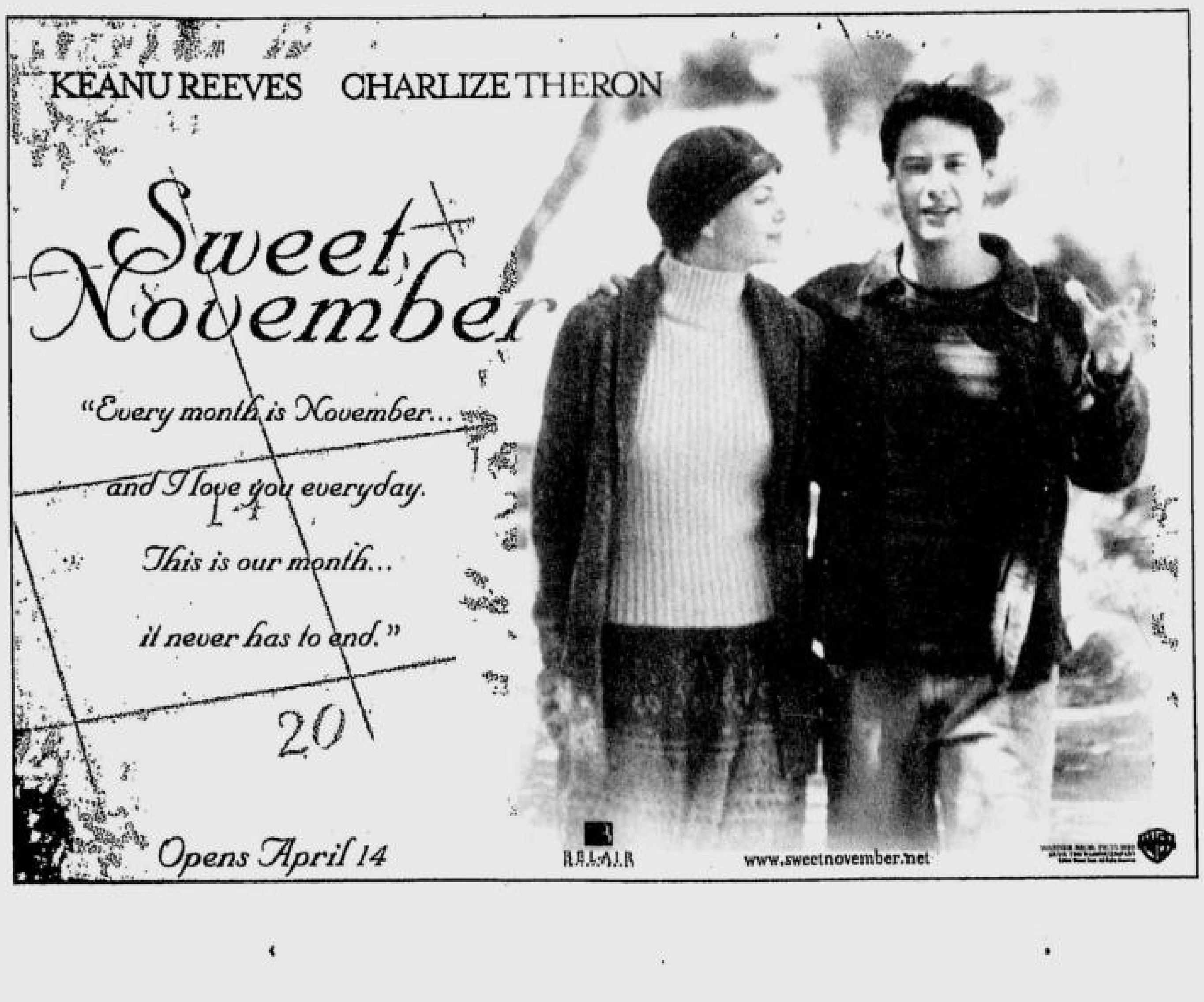
WINNER

Prize of the Guild of German Art House Cinemas @ Berlin International Film Festival 2001

Best Male Newcomer (Rob Brown) @ Las Vegas Film Critics Society Awards 2000



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Budget gap swells; BSP rates unchanged

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BUDGET deficit of the Macapagal administration was estimated to have swelled to P37.05 billion as of end-March, more than double the end-February level of P16 billion.

A government source pointed out, however, that the preliminary figure from the Bureau of Treasury was P11.496 billion less than the programmed deficit of P48.55 billion for the first three months of the year.

Even with the lower-than-projected deficit, the team from the International Monetary Fund was reportedly disappointed with the government's fiscal performance.

The IMF ended its two-week review of the Philippine economy yesterday and sources said the Fund had voiced serious concern about the inability of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to improve its collection and this was hampering the government's resolve to improve its fiscal performance.

The source said that the Fund had pointed out that the government was controlling the deficit by limiting spending, which is not sustainable in the long run because it will stunt economic growth.

Based on preliminary data from the Bureau of Treasury, revenue collection of the government reached only P119.115 billion in the first quarter while spending was tight at P156.169 billion compared to a target of P174.536 billion for the three-month period.

Of the total revenue, P84.4 billion came from the BIR whose target for the first quarter was P86.65 billion. The BIR, however, said collection in March stood at a healthy P27 billion against the target of P27.139 billion.

The Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Treasury continued to surpass their targets and posted earnings of P20.796 billion and P6.59 billion, respectively, in the first quarter of the year.

Customs hauled in P286 million more in revenue compared to its target. The treasury also surpassed target earnings by P2.5 billion as government paid lower interests on its borrowings.

Revenue from other offices reached P7.329 billion or P285 million more than the target in the first three months of the year.

Meantime, the central bank's policy-making Monetary Board left overnight interest rates unchanged at its weekly meeting yesterday, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The overnight borrowing rate is currently at 10 percent and the lending rate at 12.25 percent.

The central bank has cut interest rates by 500 basis points since December after raising them by 400 basis points in October to defend the peso when it came under attack following allegations of corruption against then President Estrada.

On Friday, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said interest rates in the country had fallen enough and ruled out immediate rate cuts.

Buenaventura has previously said rates would be cut further only if the US Federal Reserve cut its policy rates still more. He said any monetary policy easing would also be dependent on inflation data.

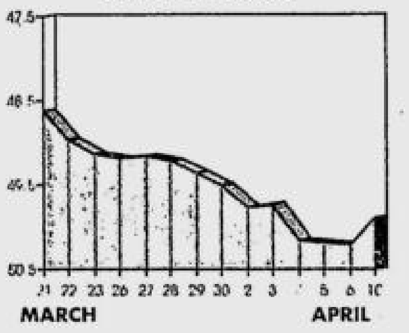
The central bank left rates unchanged last week after the release of data on March inflation, which

BUDGET/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

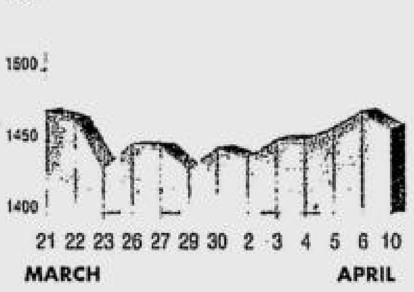
P49.900 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 10, 2001

¥124.42 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.42 as of 5 p.m., April 10, 2001

GOLD:$258.50/259.00
per ounce Hong Kong, April 10, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B3)

Stocks end lower

STOCKS ended slightly lower yesterday as some investors chose to trim holdings ahead of the Easter holiday break, traders said.

They added turnover was very light with much of the activity coming from a few large cross trades.

The main index closed down 11.64 points, or 0.79 percent, at 1,459.49. Turnover was P480.054 million from P712.84 million last Friday. Traders said there were more than P286 million worth of cross trades.

Today is the final trading day of the week ahead of the long Easter holiday break.

Vickers Ballas Securities' associate director of sales Enrique Santa Ana said apart from a little bit of speculative activity, it was a largely featureless day's trading with no significant leads to propel prices much either way.

Most of the activity was focused on some big cross trades, Santa Ana said, notably Jollibee Foods Corp., which topped the most active list on turnover of P119.92 million. It closed flat at P12.25.

Santa Ana said trading today would be even quieter as many players would be leaving work early for the holidays.

However, with the market finishing in negative territory there could be some slight scope for light gains fuelled by speculative buying. *Reuters*

Smart license extended

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has extended Smart Communications Inc.'s provisional authority to provide mobile communications services for three years.

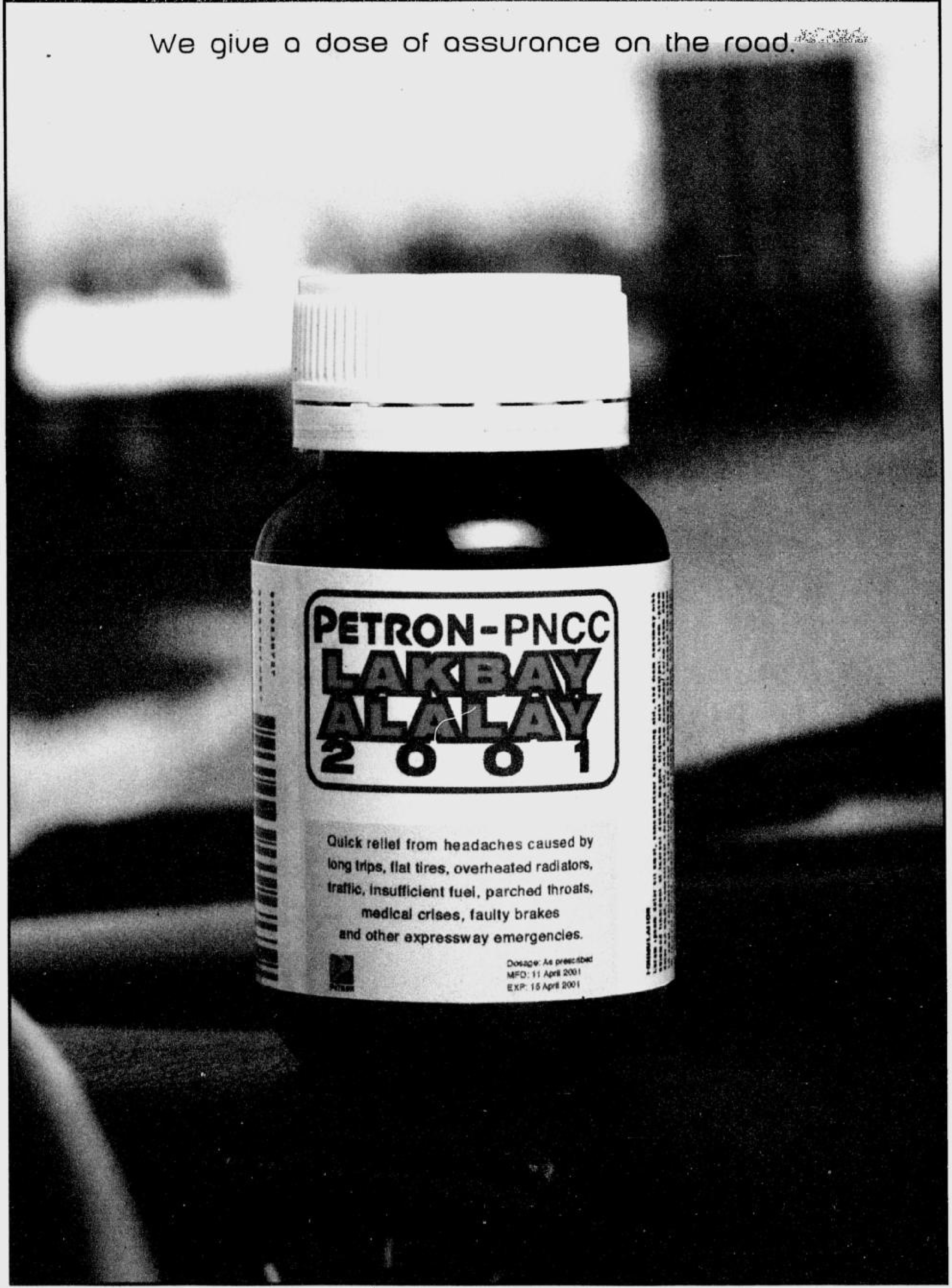
Smart's provisional authority for cellular mobile telephone system (CMTS) service, which expired last Nov. 16, was extended to Nov. 16, 2003, in a decision signed by the NTC commissioners last April 2.

The company said the NTC cited the need for "continuity of public service" when it decided to grant the extension.

Smart uses both an analog technology called Total Access Communications System or TACS and a digital technology called global system for mobile communications or GSM for its cellular phone operations.

In partnership with ACeS Philippine Cellular Satellite Corp., also a fully owned company of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart also offers a satellite phone service called Smart ACeS satellite-GSM.

Petron marks 15 years of serving motorists on the road through Lakbay Alalay.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EXP: 15 April 2001

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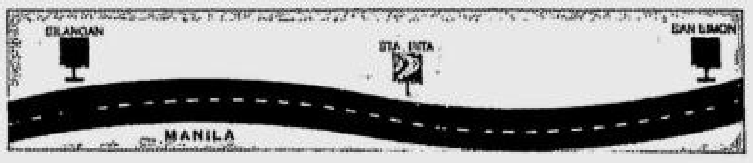
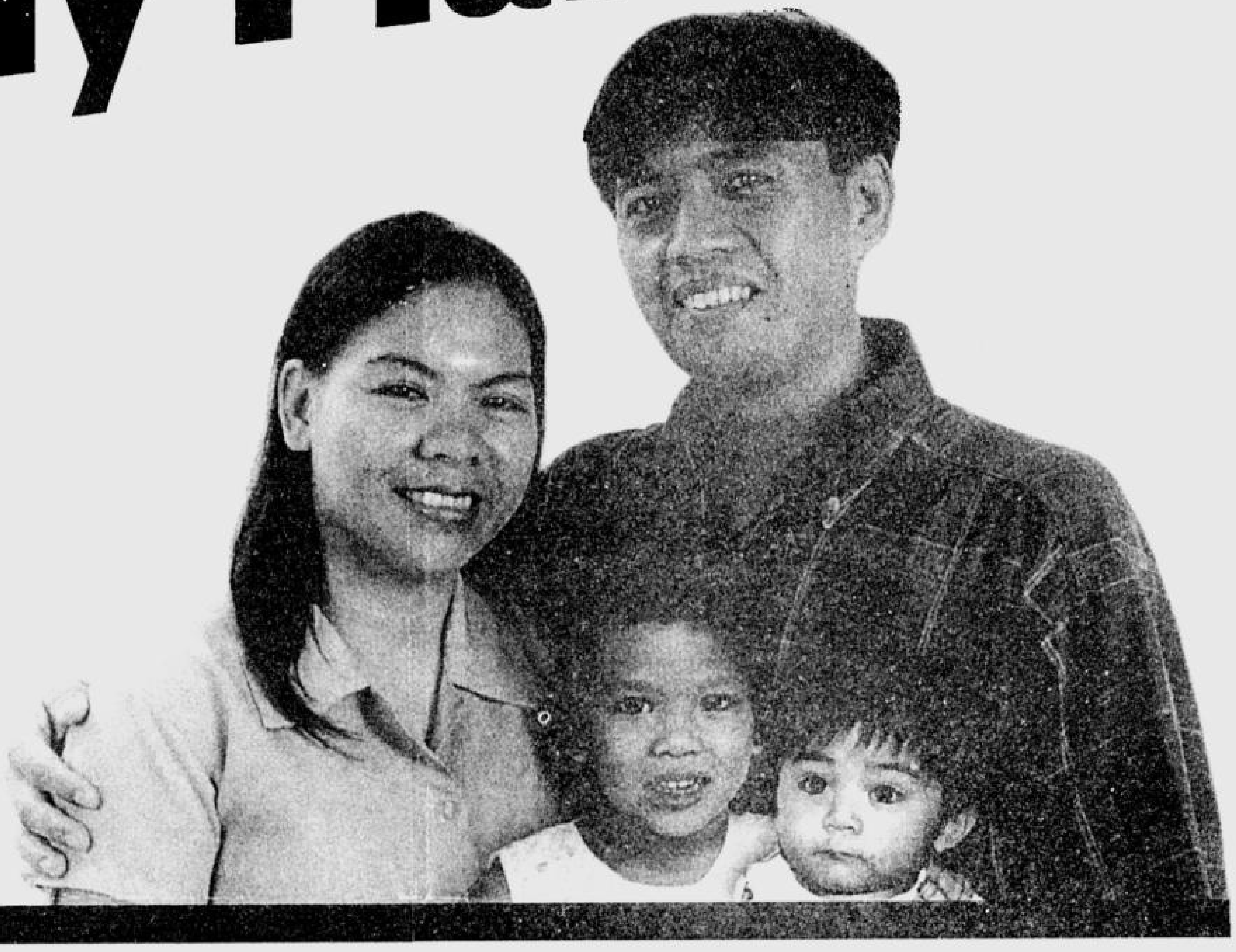


Nagsalita na ang taumbayan

Mahalaga sa amin ang Family Planning!



*Sa isang nationwide survey**

94% ang naniniwalang mahalaga ang Family Planning

76% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa Family Planning

69% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa malayang pagpili ng mga paraang Family Planning

74% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa pambansang budget para sa Family Planning

80% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa mga programang pangkalusugan ng kababaihan

*Pulse Asia, Inc., 2-15 Dec. 2000

Suportahan ang Family Planning Program ng Bayan!

Isang public service message ng Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare, Inc. (PNGOC)

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, April 10, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	105,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	49.5	46.5	46.5	119,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	215	215	211	215	156,100
Philippine National Bank	46	47	46	46.5	82,700
Phil. Savings Bank	29	30	29	30	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	5,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	29	25	29	58,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	153,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1190	1190	1175	1175	4,170
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	11,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	930	930	900	900	14,200
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcàsting Corp.	43	44.5	43	43.5	89,700
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	705	705	700	700	87,840
Ivantage Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	150,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.04	0.041	41,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42.5	43	42	42.5	99,700
Manila Electric Co. B	58	59	57	59	482,900
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.76	1.68	1.76	1,779,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.95	0.92	0.94	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	3,160,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	590,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	9,789,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30	30	30	30	214,500
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46.5	46	46.5	15,000
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	51.5	50.5	50.5	53,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	386,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.34	3,700,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	300
APC Group Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	40,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	35,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	130,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2	2	1.72	1.72	13,791,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.39	460,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.51	0.7	0.51	0.7	60,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	615,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	23	22.75	23	48,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,630,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	2.1	2.1	2.02	2.02	872,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.71	600,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	220,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12	12	12	1,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	6,790,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.49	0.52	1,680,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	1,306,600
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.85	3.9	3.4	3.4	707,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	3,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	3,700,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	1,669,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	190,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2	2.18	2	2.18	12,442,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.9	6.9	4,993,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	2,700,000
MINING					
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,450,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	20,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	3,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
South China Resources	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	714,270	69,927,060.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	106,026,840	338,488,835.00
PRO	22,024,000	71,165,420.00
Mining	1,470,000	278,000.00
OIL	6,110,000	62,100.00
GRAND TOTALS:	136,345,110	479,921,415.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	592.90	DOWN 2.40
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,974.37	DOWN 13.79
PRO	572.80	DOWN 4.95
Mining	1,091.21	UP 0.81
OIL	1.50	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	715.90	DOWN 13.36
Composite	1,459.49	DOWN 11.64

NO. OF ADVANCES: 14; NO. OF DECLINES: 34; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 21; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 69; NO. OF TRADES: 1,795

CURRENCIES

April 10, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.114454	1.000000	50.3720
Japan	Yen	0.008915	0.007999	0.4029
United Kingdom	Pound	1.610832	1.445400	72.8077
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142902	0.128226	6.4590
Switzerland	Franc	0.654176	0.586992	29.5680
Canada	Dollar	0.712475	0.639304	32.2030
Singapore	Dollar	0.614126	0.551055	27.7577
Australia	Dollar	0.550429	0.493900	24.8787
Bahrain	Dinar	2.956270	2.652661	133.6198
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297156	0.266638	13.4311
Brunei	Dollar	0.614838	0.551694	27.7899
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000092	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.024419	0.021911	1.1037
UAE	Dirham	0.303435	0.272272	13.7149
Korea	Won	0.000834	0.000748	0.0377
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.897300	45.1988
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.458782	23.1098
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136793	6.8905
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.407177	20.5103
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065209	3.2847
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022243	1.1204
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000463	0.0233
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150915	7.6019
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004476	0.2255
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005393	0.2717
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022243	1.1204
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.139336	57.3906

NDC seeks renegotiation of terms of Erap bonds

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE NATIONAL Development Co. will ask creditors next week for a five-year extension of the Economic Recovery through Agricultural Productivity (Erap) bonds, instead of issuing a new batch of IOUs.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the NDC would convene next week a dozen government and private institutions that subscribed to the maiden offering of the Erap bonds in 1999, which raised P5 billion for the government.

Roxas expressed confidence that these institutions would agree to the NDC's request, including a renegotiation of the terms on how and where to invest the money from the Erap bonds.

Roxas said the NDC has to renegotiate for the lengthening of the Erap bonds' terms because they were scheduled to mature soon. The five-year bonds, which have a 7.87-percent annual interest rate, are scheduled to mature in 2004.

He said the extension was better than issuing another set of Erap bonds. The NDC has the mandate to raise up to P50 billion from these IOUs.

The funds from the Erap bonds, however, have not been used as investments in agriculture projects as intended because of the NDC's lack of confidence and expertise in choosing viable agriculture projects.

Portion of the funds, or P3 billion, has been passed on to the Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines for re-lending. The balance was invested in treasury bills. Roxas said the bonds have been earning enough to meet their annual interest payments.

Roxas said the NDC wanted to broaden the investment areas where the proceeds of the Erap bonds could be used to include information technology and education projects.

Roxas said it was difficult for the NDC to choose projects because it has to liquidate its investments before 2004 and that its investments should be limited to agriculture (where the gestation period is longer and returns are modest) and in the form of equity not debt.

The NDC said it would use the Erap bonds to piggyback on the International Finance Corp.'s venture capital projects in the Philippines in order to speed up the use of the money from these IOUs and for NDC to gain experience in choosing viable business prospects before going solo.

DMCI writes off ₱1.5B in debts of subsidiaries

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

DMCI Holdings Inc., flagship firm of the Consunji family, has written off some P1.5 billion worth of liabilities incurred by bleeding subsidiaries Semirara Mining Corp. and Atlantic, Gulf & Pacific Co. of Manila.

These non-recurrent expenses resulted in a consolidated net loss of P1.44 billion for the group last year, a reversal from a P297-million net income in 1999.

In a disclosure sent to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, DMCI said if not for its non-recurrent expenses, the group would have booked a modest profit of P64 million last year on the strength of its core construction business.

"While the construction industry remained in a slump in 2000, DMCI posted a 17-percent increase in revenues to P3.69 billion as it secured a number of major contracts," it said.

The non-recurring items that led to a net loss, the company said, consisted of a P948-million write-off of non-operating assets and deferred charges of coal mining subsidiary Semirara, and a P552-million provision on the holding company's receivables from oil and gas exploration subsidiary AG&P.

The holding firm has been planning to divest its stake in these companies as part of a strategy to focus on its core construction business. The write-off is seen as a move in preparation for the divestment of a 40-percent and a 74.4-percent stake in AG&P and Semirara, respectively.

"The P948-million write-off represented deferred charges and obsolete equipment pertaining to the Unong coal mine, which Semirara ceased operating in January 2000 after the pit was found no longer economically viable to operate," the company said.

"A new mine—Panian—with an estimated recoverable coal reserves of 60 million metric tons, was developed shortly and made fully operational, making it necessary for the company to effect the said one-time write-offs," it added.

DMCI said Semirara was gradually moving toward recovery as its coal quality had been upgraded with the installation of a washing plant. As such, clean coal volume was expected to increase from 1.1 million metric tons to 1.5 million metric tons this year.

"Another favorable development is the upturn in coal prices from an average of P650 per metric ton in the first half of 2000 to more than P1,000 per metric ton in March 2001," it said.

SEC urged to cite Mañalac for contempt

THE OVERSEER of cash-strapped sugar mill Victorias Milling Co. Inc. has filed contempt charges against the company's former president Manuel Mañalac for misrepresentation.

In a motion filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 5, the legal counsel of the VMC management committee (mancom), Villanueva, Gabionza & De Santos Law Office, prayed that Mañalac be cited for contempt for misrepresenting himself as president of the company even after he resigned from VMC effective Jan. 31.

The motion cited a letter written by Mañalac dated March 22 to Equitable PCI Bank, one of the sugar milling company's creditor-banks, which argued that the mancom had no power to revoke VMC board resolutions on who should be the authorized signatories of VMC checks. Mañalac's letter urged the bank not to honor the checks issued by persons appointed by the mancom.

The motion noted that the SEC, in an order dated Feb. 28, had stripped Mañalac of his powers as it authorized the appointment of a chief operating officer to fill the vacancy. *Doris C. Dumlao*

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Pancake House Inc.** resolved to hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 26.

* * *

IN LINE with **Jollibee Food Corp.**'s stock repurchase program, it bought 6,572,877 JFC shares on April 6 amounting to P78,874,524. Also, its annual stockholders' meeting was postponed to June 29.

* * *

NASIPIT Lumber Co., Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 24. The record date is April 17.

* * *

ITOGON Suyoc Mines Inc. postponed its annual stockholders' meeting from May 4 to May 25.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **iVantage Corp.**, scheduled in May per its by-laws, was reset to June 28. The record date is May 28.

* * *

BENPRES Holdings Corp. said that as of April 6, **Bayan Telecommunications** has not yet completed a proposal for a restructuring program for debts worth $500 million.

* * *

LIBERTY Telecoms Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 22, 10 a.m., at the 4th floor of the AIM Conference Center, Makati City. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

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Budget

(From page B1)

was at 6.7 percent on the year.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said yesterday that treasury bill rates were still expected to fall next week given the tame inflation outlook, despite the rise in market interest rates in the past two weeks.

"Rates would still fall with inflation scenario looking promising. Next week, it should be more stable. We might even see a fall in rates between 10-20 basis points across all tenors," Edeza told reporters after the Treasury's weekly treasury bill auction.

The 91-day bills fetched a rate of 9.959 percent at the auction versus last week's 9.611 percent. The 182-day tenor was at 11.005 percent against 10.479 percent, while the 364-day was at 11.638 percent versus 11.026 percent.

This was the second consecutive week that the T-bill auction rates went up.

Edeza has said earlier this month that the benchmark 91-day T-bill rates were unlikely to fall below 9 percent without another rate cut by the central bank. *With a report from Reuters*

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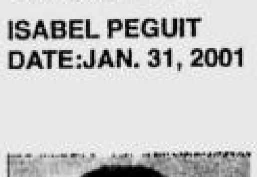
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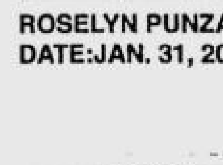
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9 de Pebrero Near Shaw A-1500m² • 534-6610 Jojo

Wack Wack 1100m² Near Manuela P40T/m² 671-4421

MARIKINA

Marikina East 814m² VAC Mor Sun 16K/m² 8440130

MUNTINLUPA

Hillsborough Area 450sqm P4M 655-4556 • 655-9393

PARANAQUE

5door-apt nr UST 9126833

Tahanan-Vac Lot 280sqm @12K/sqm • 844-0130

Maywood 288m² VAC LOT @7500/m² 8440130

V/L Multi-Nati 2Lots 615ea Main Rd Cheap 6435313

QUEZON CITY

**Only P1.3M Leland Dr. Novaliches 671-4421

**Neopolitan Ph6 P4500/m² 300m² w/Fence 671-4421

2.5Has Resdl Lot Ideal Twnhse Devt QC 937-1536

4.5Has Resdl VL Cheap Diliman QC • 937-1536

Del Monte Ave. QC 1600m² V-Lot • 928-1469

Leland Dr near Eternal Gardens P1.3M • 671-4421

Nr New York 400m² 20T Neg No Flood 6453731

QC 15th Ave 500m² 25T Neg Facing East 6453731

SFDM QC 519sqm w/Imp. 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Tandang Sora QC L-1640m² P16T/m² • 928-1469

T-Sora 755m² 634-8160

RIZAL

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Antipolo V/L w/fruit trees 5300m² w/old Hse 6435313

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Taytay 1H Tikling 3.3/2 Nice Flat w'Road 6453731

Taytay 1Ha. Comm'l Nat'l Rd 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Village East Area 387sqm 4,500/m² 655-9393, 655-4556

Village East Binangonan 203m² cor. 5313742

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

RIZAL

With Old House Area 426sqm P3M • 655-9393 / 655-4556

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San Juan Little Baguio LA=300 & up • 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

**Pampanga 27H Alng Mc Arthur H-way 220/m² 681-2457

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Colbella Homes Tanauan Batangas 3Lots 5313742

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Grand Victoria N. Ecija 4 Lots 5313742

Malinta Bul 7049m² VLot Along Hi-way • 928-1469

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Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3,200/m² 9283267

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Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

WACKWACK THomes 93 sqm 2BR 3.2M 531-2021 • 0917-3955738

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Paranaque City LA68m² 3BRs P3M • 533-5525

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

Phoenix Hts 2BR 120m² 4.8M 4121825 09177914366

Office Condo Ortigas 38Th /m² Cell 09174149898

Renaissance 3000 2Bdrms 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Renaissance Tower Meralco Ave. 634-8160

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo 1.3M EZTerm 9126976 9132224 4381480

**Blueridge Like Bnew 250m² 3Br 2Cg 671-4421

El Jardin Bohol Ave QC 2 Studios 1Cg Call 915-5177

Kamias 3Dr 12M 9155177

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

Nr Ateneo LA72 FA149 3br 2tb Nr Nice 6453731

Scout Thses 4-7M Nice 3Stry 9283267 9283267

Narra Hts1 3BR 2TB 1CG 125m² 915-5177 641-9346

SAN JUAN

Annapolis Greenhills 2-3 BR 7-8M 9283267

G'hills Condo 3BR P5.5M Fur/Unfur • 723-2391

Nr G'Hills LA67 FA200 3br 7M 2Cg Nice 6453731

One Beverly Place 7.2M 3br mq pkg 157m² 6435313

PROVINCIAL

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VARIOUS AREAS

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21Has Mango Orchard & Resort Bataan • 937-1536

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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MAKATI

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QUEZON CITY

VNice 1BR Nr Katipunan C-5 727-5728/682-1467

SAN JUAN

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HOUSE

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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SAN JUAN

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIOUS AREAS

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BUSINESS RENTAL

**Antel Global 142m² 350/m² Call 6812457

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**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

3rd Flr 300sqm Kamias Call 9206694/9251348

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Ofc Staff 9134470 Petty

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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- has prototyping skills

2 Computer Science graduates

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2 Physics major in Material Science graduates

- knowledgeable in electrostatic analysis, electronics materials, EMC/EMI

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Ms. Jaymee Bermudez
39-E C. Raymundo St., Rotonda, Pasig City
and to
arnel@hugel.co.jp (please send as attachment)

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THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
C/O ACER INFORMATION PRODUCTS (PHILS), INC.
#4 Rizal Hi-way cor. Aim High Avenue,
SBIP Phase I Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATE BY P0.48/KWH ACROSS-THE-BOARD WITH PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERB CASE NO. 2001-20

IBAAN ELECTRIC AND ENGINEERING CORPORATION
Applicant.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Ibaan Electric and Engineering Corporation (IEEC) on March 16, 2001 of an application for authority to increase its rates by P0.48/KWH across the board with prayer for provisional relief.

The Board has set the said application for hearing on April 23 and 24, 2001 at nine o'clock (9:00 AM) in the morning at the ERB Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of initial hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Board their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings may request that before the date of initial hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with this Board during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable MELINDA L. OCAMPO, Chairman and Honorables ALBERTO D. DOSAYLA, OSCAR F. ALA, NICOMEDES B. DEYMATA and MARIETTA L. ARRACAS, Members, Energy Regulatory Board this 27th day of March 2001 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) ARNIDO O. INUMERABLE
Executive Director

(PDI – April 11 & 12, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Organic Fertilizer Dealership 8175511/8944950

Supervisor US$ 8951381

T-SHIRT SALE TEL4383147

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of ISAGANI GAN SAYO was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc. No. 955; Page No. 26; Book No. 26; Series of 2000 of Notary Public Amador C. Casino of Makati City(PDI-Mar. 29, Apr. 5 & 11,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NORBERTO OSIDO has been extrajudicially settled w/ sale by his heirs as per Doc No. 420; Page No. 84; Book No. X; Series 2001 before Notary Public Elcid Fajardo of Pasig City.
(PDI-Apr.11,18 & 25, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Wilfredo R. Villegas has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per doc #5 page #1 book #VIII series of 2001 before notary public Eddie Fernandez of the city of Mandaluyong
(PDI-April 4 11 18 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate for Ayala Alabang Country Club under the name of Mr Ramon K Katigbak was declared lost If found, pls. call tel. nos 812-6409 & 812-6436 (PDI-April 4 & 11, 2001)

PERSONAL

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

THANK YOU MAMA MARY

THANK YOU PAPA JESUS

THANK YOU ST. JUDE

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Rosary

Q. Who invented the rosary?

A. The practice of using a string of knots or beads as a memory aid in prayer goes back to the Indic priests of the Middle East prior to 5000 BC. It became popular among Catholics only in the 12th century, thanks to Saint Dominic of Spain, founder of the Dominican order. In an apparition, the Virgin Mary asked him to preach the rosary as a "spiritual remedy against heresy and sin." The word itself is from the Latin *rosarium*, "garland of roses." But why "roses?" Probably because many early rosaries had beads carved of rosewood.

For the Record. Roses may be grown in any good, well-drained soil. Although different varieties respond better to certain soil and climate than to others, sandy soils are usually not as favorable as clay soils, warm temperatures are always preferred, and the plants grow best when not set among other plants. Cow manure is the preferred fertilizer, but other organic fertilizers, especially composts, are also used. The plants usually require severe pruning, which must be adapted to the intended use of the flowers. Most rose varieties are grown by budding on an understock (lower portion of a plant) propagated from seeds or cuttings. Roses must be sprayed frequently with insect poisons and fungicides.

Past Forward. This day in 1969: Radio Veritas was inaugurated at the Pope Pius XII Center in Ermita, Manila, as the first Catholic radio station in Southeast Asia.

WORD WATCH

Veridical (vuh'ri-di-kal) : truthful; veracious; genuine.

PDI - - April 11, 2001

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DOMINADOR "DOMINO" H. SALES

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 7, 2001
at the age of 43.

His bereaved wife **Marifi**; children **Bel**, **Abu** and **Miko**; parents **Rudy** and **Norma Sales**; father-in-law **Jose "JM" Mendoza**; brothers and sisters **Vee** and **Boyet**, **Cristina** and **Vincent**, **Jun**, **Raymond**, **Nancy** and **Joey**, **Joanna** and **Gem**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Gov. Josie** and **Roger**, **Te** and **Andy**, **Jonjon** and **Violy**, **Dr. Pete** and **Dra. Tet**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Lolomboy, Bocaue, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 15, 2001 at the Krus sa Wawa Memorial Park, Wakas, Bocaue after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Andrew Kim Shrine, Lolomboy, Bocaue, Bulacan.

"I am the Resurrection anyone who believes in Me,
even though that person dies, will live."
John 11:25

REYNALDO "DANDING" D. ORTIZ-LUIS, SR.

of Cabiao, Nueva Ecija
December 25, 1920 - April 9, 2001

His dearest wife **JUSTINA**; children **DING & JOSSETTE ORTIZ-LUIS**, **FERDIE & MERLE LYN**, **YASMINE ORTIZ-LUIS**, **BOY & NORAI**, **CANCIO**, **GERALD & AGNES HASSELL**, **LOUIE & MAAN ORTIZ-LUIS**; grandchildren **PIA**, **JON & MICHELLE** (and son **AARON**), **RONA**, **JUSTINE**, **ALYSSA**, **FRANCES**, **MJ**, **JARRED & LARA**; his sisters **TONING**, **SHEGINA & GRACING PELAYO**; and brother **EUSTAQUIO ("AMANG") ORTIZ-LUIS, JR.** and families; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at Santuario De San Jose, Greenhills.

Cremation will be on Saturday, April 14, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina at 1:00 p.m.

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift that's why its called present..."

In lieu of flowers donations to the St. John Nepomuceno Parochial School of Cabiao, Nueva Ecija will be appreciated.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

CATALINA BAUTISTA CRUZ

of Pasay City and Bacoor, Cavite

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 9, 2001 at the age of 98.

Her bereaved husband **Ramon A. Cruz Sr.** (†); children **Catalina B. Cruz** married to **Amado Morales** (†), **Felisa B. Cruz** married to **Jacinto S. De Leon, Sr.**, **Soledad B. Cruz**, **Lourdes B. Cruz**, **Ramon B. Cruz, Jr.** married to **Lourdes Morando**, **Claro B. Cruz** married to **Aurelia Quiteviz**, **Jesus B. Cruz** married to **Pilar Valenzuela**; brother **Leandro T. Bautista**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Bien Chapel, Rizal Funeral Homes, Inc., Libertad St., Pasay City.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 15, 2001 at the Silangan Memorial Garden, Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the La Bien Chapel, Rizal Funeral Homes, Inc.

"God indeed is my saviour; I am confident and unafraid, my strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my saviour." Isaiah, 12:2

In Loving Memory

on the occasion of the tenth death anniversary of

Constancia I. Taduran

who passed away on 11 April 1991

and

the sixth death anniversary of

Concepcion I. Taduran

who passed away on 13 April 1995

Holy Masses will be offered on 11 April at the following:

6:00 a.m. - Parish of the Presentation of the Child Jesus, BF Parañaque
6:00 a.m. - Parish of the Divine Healer, Tahanan Village
6:30 a.m. - Parish of the Resurrection, BF Homes Parañaque
12:15 p.m. - Parish of Our Lady of EDSA
12:15 p.m. - Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord, SM Megamall
6:30 p.m. - Parish of St. James, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa

Members of the family will be grateful to friends and relatives for their prayers for Wawa and Connie.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

VENANCIO P. MENDOZA

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 9, 2001
at the age of 94.

His bereaved children **BERT** and **BING**, **TERRY** and **MAR** (†), **DING** and **PURING**, **LUISA** and **CARDING**, **RAMON** and **LIGAYA**, **LARRY** and **JANET**, **ESTER**, **GLORIA** and **JERRY**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on April 15, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes and me will never die.
John 11:25-26

NATIVIDAD GAMBOA BUMATAY

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on April 7, 2001 at the age of 73.

She was survived by her children **Edgardo** and **Edwin** and grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Lim-De Mesa Memorial Chapel, Bayanan, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on April 14, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque at 4:00 p.m.

REMEDIOS YSAGUN Vda. de RUALO

(Retired Philippine Normal College Professor)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 9, 2001 at the age of 91.

Beloved mother of **Dr. Lourdes**, **Corazon** (†), **Juan Jr.**, **Dr. Divina Gracia**, **Teresita** (**Sis. Mary Stephanie S. Sp.S.**), **Antonio**, and **Remedios Loreto**; with their spouses **Dr. Guillermo Nayan**, **Anicia**, **Evelyn**, **Gloria**, **Josephine**, **Atty. Antonio Pasigan** and **Maximo Martin, Jr.**; her grandchildren **Marie Antoinette**, **Marie Joyce**, **Marie Therese**, **Marie Belle**, **Lorna Angelica**, **Gleci Anne**, **Arnold**, **Grace Antoinette**, **Ma. Lourdes**, **Ma. Luisa**, **Edward**, **Michael Anthony**, **Guil**, **Raymond**, **Lee**, **Vincent**, **Michael Anthony II**, **Marc**, **Nicole**, **Angelique**, **Johnny Ray**, and **Frances** and great grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Premiere 1 of Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will follow on Black Saturday, April 14, 2001, 4:00 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.
2 Cor. 5:4-5

Benjamin M. Reyes

Noted Filipino violinist, husband, father

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 9, 2001.

His bereaved wife **Ma. Teresa**; children **Reyman James** and **Marnie Ella** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 305 Camella Avenue, Camella III-D Subd., Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas.

Interment will be on Easter Sunday, April 22, 2001 at Golden Haven, Tramo, Las Piñas.

A year ago

Pacita "Pat" E. Lichnock

December 6, 1926 -- April 11, 2000
journeyed home to her Creator.

In loving memory, Holy Masses will be offered today at the following Churches:

Parish of St. James the Great	6:20 a.m.
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa	12:15 p.m.
	6:30 p.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani & Sta. Susana Parish Church	6:00 a.m.
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa	6:00 p.m.
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart	
San Antonio Village, Makati City	6:00 a.m.
San Isidro Parish Church	6:00 a.m.
Taft Avenue, Pasay City	6:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Church	6:00 a.m.
F.B. Harrison, Pasay City	6:00 p.m.
Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life	
Reclamation Area, Pasay City	6:30 p.m.
San Marcelino Church	
San Marcelino St., Manila	8:00 a.m.
Novena Church	Easter Sunday Mass
Singapore	
St. Charles Borromeo	
Sacramento, California	8:30 a.m.
Sacred Heart Church	
Jacksonville, Florida	6:00 a.m.

Her husband **Dick**; their children **Marge** and **Gerry**, **Ed** and **Rozanna**, **Fritz** and **Eileen**, **Anton** and **Jacqui**, **John** and **Cassie**; their grandchildren **Erich**, **Stacey**, **Wick**, **Patch**, **Kimberly**, **Kristopher**, **Monique** and **Kayla**, would like to thank everyone in the family and dear friends, all who continue to remember her and include her in their prayers.

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Examine your work conscience this Lent

BY ERNIE O. CECILIA

I WAS reading Genesis 1 and 2 of the Holy Bible, and I saw that the world God made then was so different from the world we now live in. The world in Genesis was so ideal, perfect and wholesome. The world today is full of misery, hatred, and confusion.

How can we have peace in this world? Maybe, world peace is such an elusive dream, especially when countries are not at peace with each other, or when there is no industrial peace in the workplace, or when we don't even have inner peace.

In the workplace, people can achieve peace by following these timely suggestions:

1. Admit that you are not perfect.

Sometimes, we are told that something is wrong with us. Instead of checking if the message is true, we usually cut down the messenger. If we do this, we will miss the benefit of an honest feedback and the opportunity to improve ourselves.

Jenny told her friend Trixie that the latter had been so nasty and high-strung at work over the past six months. Jenny thought this was the reason why most male officemates were avoiding Trixie. Instead of examining herself to find out the truth about Jenny's feedback, she gave Jenny an uncalled-for tongue-lashing. Trixie resented the feedback and Jenny resented the tongue-lashing. Now, more people are avoiding Jenny because she could not accept that she has some faults, too.

The Bible reminds us that "all have sinned and fell short..."

2. Examine your conscience.

Your conscience is your best ally when you are torn between alternatives or options. It helps you arrive at a good decision. Many times, you will see only the symptoms of a problem, but you'd think that the symptoms are the problems themselves.

Examining your conscience is like having a wrestling match with yourself. It is a very difficult process because it is hard to be objective about oneself. How many times were we told that our greatest enemy is ourselves?

To ensure a fair examination of conscience,

- pray for guidance and wisdom.
- be objective about the process.
- choose a conducive venue for self-examination.
- do not be too harsh on yourself.
- think of your faults as areas for improvement.
- cite critical incidents for each area of improvement.
- do not be defensive.
- write down notes.
- build up on critical incidents and explore some more.
- take note of bright spots, not just faults.
- summarize your notes.
- make a final list of weak points you wish to correct or improve.

If you are an employee doing an examination of conscience about your behavior at work, you may wish to ask yourself the following guide questions:

- Have you been fair to your employer?
- Have you turned in an amount and quality of work commensurate with your pay?
- Have you been honest, courteous and responsive to your customers, bosses, peers, and subordinates?
- Have you been fair and cooperative with your team?
- Have you been spending your time at work working? Have you been punctual and regular in attendance? At break times? Or were you texting during working hours?
- Do you value and make wise use of company resources?
- Do you strive to learn and be the best in your line of work?
- Do you complete your assigned tasks on time?
- Do you observe company rules and regulations?
- Do you contribute value to your organization?

3. Accept yourself as you are.

Peace comes with contentment, and contentment is being happy with what you are or what you have. If after examining your conscience, you have determined that you are only what you are and cannot be what you want to be, then be kind to yourself. For the moment, accept yourself as you are and be happy being the best that you are.

Never pretend to be what you are not. If you have dreams and aspirations of becoming someone better than you are now, dream about it, plan for it, and work at it. But until you become another you, accept and love yourself the way you are. Maybe no one else would but you owe it to yourself to accept yourself as you are. Then, you lessen the confusion, the dissonance, the overlapping statuses and the pretenses that cause stress and prevent inner peace.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

4. Do not rationalize your faults.

When examining your conscience, you don't have to cheat. If you do, it's only yourself that you are cheating. When your faults are identified, do not rationalize. Do not have a good reason for being lax, late, dishonest, grumpy, quarrelsome, etc. There should be no good reason for being bad.

When, on one hand, you identify your faults and, on the other, you give a reason to exonerate yourself, you are not doing yourself any good. The process will not lead to an improvement. In fact, it will embolden you to develop more bad habits. Then, you will continue to have no peace.

5. Commit to improve.

When you shall have determined your areas for improvement, commit to a plan to help you overcome those habits that stand in the way of your inner peace or peace with your fellowmen.

Your plan must be simple and achievable. There is no point committing to something that is utterly unreasonable. Grandiose plans are good but if they are not workable, you will never achieve them or have the peace that you seek.

After examining one's conscience, a person is sometimes faced with the dilemma of having to make an extreme sacrifice if only to have his or her own inner peace and the peace among the lives that he or she touches. The extreme sacrifice is practically nothing short of dying, in order to be "born again" as a new person. The extreme sacrifice is very hard to do. But it can be done if one has the will and the love within one's self.

Every year, countless creatures die, only to be born into a different life form. Millions of caterpillars roll themselves into a cocoon, without food and air, and practically die, only to be born again after several weeks as a new creation—beautiful butterflies.

Again, as in the Bible, "... the old is gone, and the new creation has come..."

Pray so you can hear God

RECIPES*for* LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquir

The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us but that we will finally hear God.

This is the time for fervent prayers. How do you pray? By mumbling those memorized prayers mindlessly? Try silence for a change. This is the time to pray from the heart, to meditate, to listen to God's voice and special message.

I received two big blessings last week. First, I finally met a dear cyberfriend, Alicia Ynez. She e-mailed me as soon as this column appeared here at PaW and we have been regular e-mail friends since. Last Wednesday, I had the distinct experience of seeing her and talking to her in person. She is a very loving, beautiful, intuitive and talented poet.

Second, I am blessed to receive one-on-one basic lessons on qijong from Professor Teresa "Tita" Martinez-Sicat in her warm, welcoming home in Loyola Grand Villas. By the grace of God, we met last Wednesday at the exhibition of watercolor portraits and photography by Michelle Blaiklock, annotated by the moving poetry of Alicia. Next day, I was in Prof. Sicat's villa and we were doing qijong and trading stories as if we have been friends for a long, long time. She lent me three books and here I share with you some thoughts to power your meditation during this Lenten season, and even after. These are timely meditative poses from the book "Sheng Zhen Wuji Yuan Gong: A Return to Wholeness" by Masters Gong Chang and Li Jun Feng.

Basic sitting instructions

Sit in the full lotus position on the floor. Sit with your torso upright but relaxed, and with your left foot resting on your right thigh and the right foot under. If this position is too difficult; it is fine to either sit in the half-lotus position or to simply sit in the easy pose with your left ankle crossed on top of your right ankle. Rest the hands, palms down on your knees. If you are unable to assume this crossed legged position, it is permissible to sit on a chair provided that you sit upright with your both feet firmly flat on the ground.

It is very important to be seated comfortably when you are meditating. If necessary, you may use a cushion when sitting on the floor. You might also find it easier to maintain a relaxed and upright posture if the pelvis is tilted slightly forward by placing a thin cushion under it so that it is slightly higher than your knees.

Preparation

After establishing a proper posture, you may perform the Zhongtian movement. Smile while you meditate. You are listening to God's words.

Touch the tip of your tongue to your upper palate and keep your tongue in that position throughout the practice. This is to allow energy to circulate within you unimpeded and connect with heaven, earth and all of humanity.

Close your eyes. Breathe slowly and evenly as if you are breathing through your skin. Let your mind become empty. Banish all thoughts. Forget everything including yourself. Feel yourself becoming larger and larger, lighter and lighter until you don't feel your body anymore.

Zhongtian movement

Raise both hands and bring them together with palms facing each other as in prayer. Cup your hands slightly with your thumbs slightly apart and the tips of your other fingers as well as outer edges of your hands touching. Blow into the space between the palms.

After blowing, separate hands; moving right hand down to a little below the navel while at the same time moving left hand up to sweep the front of the face from your chin to your forehead. Keeping your right hand in its position just below the navel, continue to move left hand, sweeping it downward in front of your face and torso until it comes to rest on the palm of your right hand.

Zhongtian yiqi

Slightly bend your elbows with your upper arms a little apart from the sides of your torso. Your palms should be facing up and the tips of your thumbs are touching forming a heart-shaped hollow space. Simply breathe lightly and naturally. Relax your body. Lose all sense of yourself. Forget everything. Forget your worries or sadness. Forget even your happy thoughts. Feel your entire being dissolve into the universe as you become oblivious to yourself. Feel your heart become calm and your emotions happy. This is a blissfully pleasant state.

Zhongtian yiqi is a non-moving qigong that trains and quiets your mind. Pause in this state for some time, letting your body become more and more relaxed.

You will naturally move into a higher realm—a plane which the average person cannot experience. In this state, no matter what you see or hear, do not become fearful or overly excited. Feel that you are immersed in a warm, nurturing and loving environment.

With a tranquil and peaceful mind, you can go back to the beginning of time and see your world with renewed understanding.

Conclusion

From the state of "voidness," gradually be aware of your body and slowly open your eyes, returning to your normal waking consciousness. Conclude with another Zhongtian movement.

When you do this practice, proceed slowly sequentially. Allot sufficient time to establish a proper sitting posture and to become very relaxed. When this is not done properly, you will not get the desired benefit no matter who long you do it.

This practice can be done at any time and, particularly, later in the evening because this is when the energy or qi is quiet. This can be done alone but the benefits are greater when done with a group. Do this as long as possible and as often as you like.

If you are interested to practice more qijong movements for wholeness and healing, call 890-9376 for the International Sheng Zhen Society or e-mail them at *iszs@info.com.ph*.

Enjoy praying by simply listening, saying nothing. Remember God knows everything. He knows what you want, what you need and what is best for you even without you saying it. It is now time to hear what He has to tell you. Be still. Be quiet.

(E-mail feedback to moje.ramos@aquino.ZZN.com *)*

What are your secrets for being taken seriously at work?

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'm the only woman machinist in my company and my boss and the other guys don't take my ideas seriously. Even though I think it's their problem, I'd like to know what to do to make them pay attention.

Girls Just Want
To Be Taken Seriously

Remember that old 60's saying, "if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem"? Well, lest you think that I'm part of the problem (since I happen to share a significant biological trait with your boss and coworkers), I sat down with the smartest woman I know, my wife, to get her take on your letter. Robin reminded me of our daughter's second birthday party. "Remember when Hallie couldn't care less about the expensive present we'd bought her and just got absorbed in the box and wrapping paper? Well, just like Hallie couldn't focus on her present, some bosses and coworkers can't focus on the idea; they just get lost in how it's packaged."

Sad but true. So for tips on how to turn that problem around I turned to Lois Frankel. Her book, "Overcoming Your Strengths, " (Harmony Books, 1997) examines common reasons careers ."stall, plateau, get sidetracked, or worse, derail." Frankel points out that your problem isn't limited to women; many men struggle with it too. And her surprising warning is that the very strengths that lead to your success can also be your undoing. She says you can encourage people to take you seriously by asking yourself the following questions, which I've adapted from her book.

1. How confidently do you present your ideas? Lois, quotes Georgetown University Professor Deborah Tannen, who says, "Women are likely to downplay their certainty; men are likely to minimize their doubts." Her advice: talk as if you're sure your ideas are the greatest and others are apt to think so too.

2. Do you use declarative statements instead of questions? "What do you think if we . . . ?" sends a very different message from ' I think we should . . ." Guess which way inspires confidence.

3. Do you cut to the chase? You'll keep their attention if you avoid the slow buildup and just give them the punchline. Have supporting documentation available and assume if they need more info they'll ask.

4. Do you keep it short? You want to identify the problem, offer your solution, and give your two or three best arguments in two minutes or less. You've heard the expression "brevity is the soul of wit"? Well, in today's fast-paced workplace, brevity is the whole of it.

Robin and I learned the hard way that toddlers don't need fancy presents when a box and some wrapping paper will do. Unfortunately, by time our daughter's third birthday arrived, it was too late: she wanted to see the Barbie. But, lucky for you, it's never too late to do a better job of packaging your ideas.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Why aren't some people taken seriously at work?

—It's a boss thing, managers need to respect employees, 74 percent;

—It's a guy thing, men should stop playing games, 14 percent;

—It's a gal thing, women must be more assertive, 12 percent.

Our winning strategy for being taken seriously at work comes from Ashley in Raleigh, NC.

"1. Know what the final project is to accomplish, then work backward from there; 2. Ask everyone's opinions, then ask them why they think or feel like that; 3. Keep an open mind, but not so open your brain falls out; 4. Listen to other people; 5. Do what you think is good, don't do it just because it seems right."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

How to manage life transitions, passages

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I READ your article "Harness the power of vision" in the March 21, 2001 issue of the INQUIRER. Were it not for the vision I have clung tenaciously to these past 16 years in a roller coaster overseas work, I would not be looking forward to a modestly comfortable retirement in my forties. I am a believer in that vision power you so articulately espoused. Great stuff!

But it is not vision that I am writing about but rather the transition period you referred to. Does everyone get to live happily ever after when a new graduate finds a good job (or the job finding him)? In an ideal world, I guess. But how I sadly miss my son now! We seem to have lost him after he found his financial independence more than a year ago.

The way he behaves nowadays, this "greater control" that he should be experiencing could be more aptly described as "out of control." Would you please advise on what happens to his relationship with the family—parents and siblings? Has this been a subject of any study or treatise? Am I alone in thinking that this period could be traumatic, fraught with pitfalls, frustration, tension and failed expectations? What adjustments on both sides, if any, are needed?

This may not be in the realm of development consulting or a workplace concern. There must be a connection though, because I believe that a noble vision cannot be conceived by someone who is in a state of disharmony with those who have supported, cared and loved (and continue to do so) him the most.

Anxious father at work in Saudi

Reading your letter I cannot help but empathize and find parallels to my own experience as a mother and parent. It is true that visioning does not end with finding a financially rewarding job. In fact, all through our lives we have to continue to vision. One pharmaceutical client mentioned to me how vital visioning is to people who retire. Based on statistics, a big number of people die after retirement, not just because they get old and sick, but because they stop dreaming and aspiring. It is vital for man to always be forward looking.

Life's passion

Frederick Hudson talks about pursuing the passion of your life come retirement. He asks the question—what have you always wanted to do when you were younger that you never got to do because you had to earn a living? According to him, the passion of your life can be totally different from what you are presently doing.

A journalist friend of mine has taken up farming. Everyday he is learning something new, not just about harvests and market prices, but also about the wonders of nature that surround him, including the lovely sunrise that greets him in the morning. Certainly, he is not missing the morning traffic rush or the rat race in the city.

Today, as I live a hectic life as a consultant, nothing gives me greater pleasure than visioning the day when I can grow roses and herbs in my garden and do work in a nursery school for poor communities. In fact, I keep a notebook where I put all the interesting ideas and a scrapbook of clippings related to that future. Yes, also some expensive books on these two interests—a luxury for sure, but investments for the future.

So, as you look forward to retirement, start developing your own vision. In an earlier article, I mentioned William Bridges' transition framework of endings, neutral zones and new beginnings. All people undergoing dramatic changes experience it more or less intensely depending on one's personality and readiness for change. Getting ready now would be one of the best ways to prepare for retirement.

Family ties

You also mentioned your son, who is now financially independent and who seems to be cutting off family ties, and your concerns as a parent. First, understand that your son is now an adult who can think on his feet. In fact, it is a credit to you and your wife that you have grown a son who is capable and is self-sufficient financially. He is passing through a stage where he needs to experience life and make decisions on his own.

Two years ago, my daughter went to study and train in a European country. Since I had prior experience studying overseas when I was younger, I thought I would go through this experience without pain. You cannot imagine the emotional difficulty we had to go through as a close-knit family, missing her, wondering how she was doing. What was important at those moments was to close ranks as a family, constantly talk about why she had to go overseas and emotionally let go. Then, we pledged to live well every present moment till she gets back.

E-mail

Thanks to modern communications media like electronic mail, or e-mail as most of us call it, we would communicate twice a week to update each other about goings-on. This is ironic, but I felt even closer to her when she was abroad. Late last year, we fetched her to bring her home. We had to recognize that she had changed and we had to respect her autonomous ways. After all, she had to survive on her own for two years. This is not easy at all. The key is to try to "be one with her," to try to treat her like a respected colleague when she expresses her ideas. There are moments when we can get engaged in heated debates but the caring and respect remain. But, as we see her grow as an adult and as a professional, we can only express gratitude for her taking the difficult step of living abroad even for a while.

Second, never break ties with your son. Invent reunions and dinners at home. Send him cards and gifts on important occasions. Make him realize what it means to be a family. Do all of these without expecting anything in return and without pressure to comply or respond on his part. He may be busy pursuing a career, but the seeds of love that have been planted during younger years may be dormant for a while but are still there.

Family vacation

Last Christmas, our family decided to go on vacation out of town to develop our personal and family vision and mission. It was the toughest session I had ever facilitated, but, with patience, we finally completed it. We understood we needed to spend time for truly authentic communications as family. This was on top of monthly family meetings where we get to share experiences, raise and resolve issues and ensure relevance of family norms and curfews.

Third, recognize that there is a generational divide between you, a "Baby Boomer," and him, a member of "Generation X." In a book entitled "Managing Generation X," Bruce Tulgan notes the need to clear our misconceptions about GenXers.

They are not disloyal and uncommitted but are more cautious about institutional relationships. They do not have short attention spans but they want many answers quickly to many questions from many sources. Their learning and communication skills were shaped by the information revolution.

They have intense attitudes that can be mistaken for arrogance. They are powerfully independent, needing psychological space to thrive. They see their work and careers as fundamental to their self-definition. They have their own concept of career security with the need for clear goals and constant career feedback.

Hopefully, knowing these characteristics, we can flex our communication styles to develop deep and fulfilling adult relationships with our grownup children. May you overcome with hope and optimism the transition challenges you are currently encountering.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice work through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For feedback or suggestions ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Chelo Banal-Formoso, Editor ■ Pam Pastor, Chief of Correspondents

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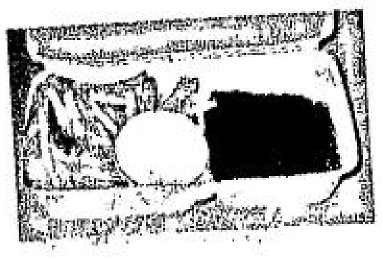
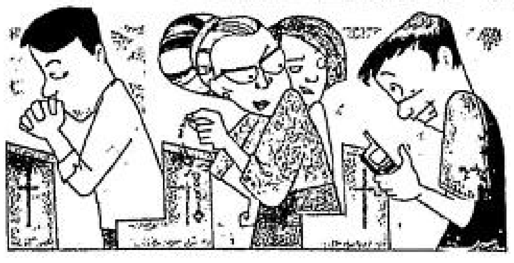


‘MAGPAKABANAL KA’!

Clip those horns and cut that swishy tail you’ve grown in a year of profanity and sin! Get holy this Holy Week as 2bU! takes you on a saintly and not-so-saintly survey of the different kind of fun that is Lent



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Not your usual Lenten movies

By Mozart A.T. Pastrano

IF you're stuck in the city this week and are clueless about Lenten treats in town, two films currently showing in Metro Manila are just the very thing. "Chocolat" (Glorietta 4, Cinema 5) and "Malena" (Greenbelt, Cinema 1) tackle the drama of redemption and rebirth—as seen from the viewpoint of the youth.

Both films are narrated by precocious adolescents: pretty and piquant Anouk in the former, and the impish but perceptive schoolboy Renato in the latter. Of course, they tell their stories many years after the incidents they report on took place, and this lends their reminiscing the hindsight of wisdom and all *that* entails, most particularly the delicious, delirious twists of irony.

But that is not all the two films have in common. They explore the same dilemmas: the freedom to be different, to be one's self—the very theme of this Lifestyle section, 2bU!, or "to be yourself"—and the hypocrisy of society in the way it defines itself through what it excludes and forbids, rather than on what and who it embraces.

'Chocolat'

"Chocolat" is a fable set during Lent, when the whole village heeds the traditional call of fasting. You can just imagine the townspeople's consternation when a stranger arrives and opens a chocolate shop—right smack in front of the church and in the middle of Lent!

Thus begins the fight purportedly between good and evil. That is, between the God-fearing aristocrat mayor, who claims to be thinking only of the town's moral and spiritual well-being, and the sassy, scintillating stranger who wears red high heels and has an illegitimate daughter to boot.

As the battle lines are drawn, not only is the town's dirty laundry exposed—a battered housewife here and a tempestuous mother-and-daughter rift there—but, as it turns out, redemption is also found... at the *chocolaterie*.

ONE TASTE IS ALL IT TAKES
Chocolat

DENCH gets a supporting actress nomination.

'Chocolat' and 'Malena' may not be religious movies in the tradition of 'The Ten Commandments' and 'The Robe,' but they speak of the same values preached in the Gospel—charity, tolerance and forgiveness

The ones who most need redemption, however, are the stranger and her daughter, who are both cursed by a mythical cycle of wanderlust. How the people whose lives they have touched, nay, transformed, gift them with it—the gift of loving welcome—and how they finally come home is a sugary, syrupy brew of choco loco.

And to underscore its feel-good theme, the film ends on Easter Sunday, no less.

This fabulist tale starring Juliette Binoche, Judi Dench, Alfred Molina, Lena Olin and Johnny Depp has so captured the imagination of Hollywood that it earned a handful of nominations in this year's Oscars: for actress, supporting actress, adapted screenplay and original score—as well as best picture.

'Malena'

While the girl narrator in "Chocolat" has a sophisticated flair for drama, the boy narrator in "Malena" employs a brutal, matter-of-fact tone all throughout that's just a perfect foil to the mischief and beauty and pathos onscreen.

The daughter of a deaf Latin grammar teacher, Malena is a beautiful, shapely woman plucked from the province by a landed gentleman in Castelcuto, a Sicilian village. He married her and promptly left her to do military service at the outbreak of World War II.

She finds herself living alone in a picturesque beachfront stonehouse. Men—and boys—are smitten by her. And the women in town, who find in her everything that they unfortunately are not, despise her. In this seesawing of desire and derision, a fiction is born: Malena as a sex animal. (Not quite incidentally, her real name is Magdalena.)

This fiction threatens to take on the harrowing dimensions of fact after town officials announce the heroic death of Malena's husband in the course of duty. She is haled to court for adultery but is acquitted. But this is mere Pyrrhic victory, for the town has convicted her in its collective imagination anyway and events, alas, unfold haplessly beyond her control.

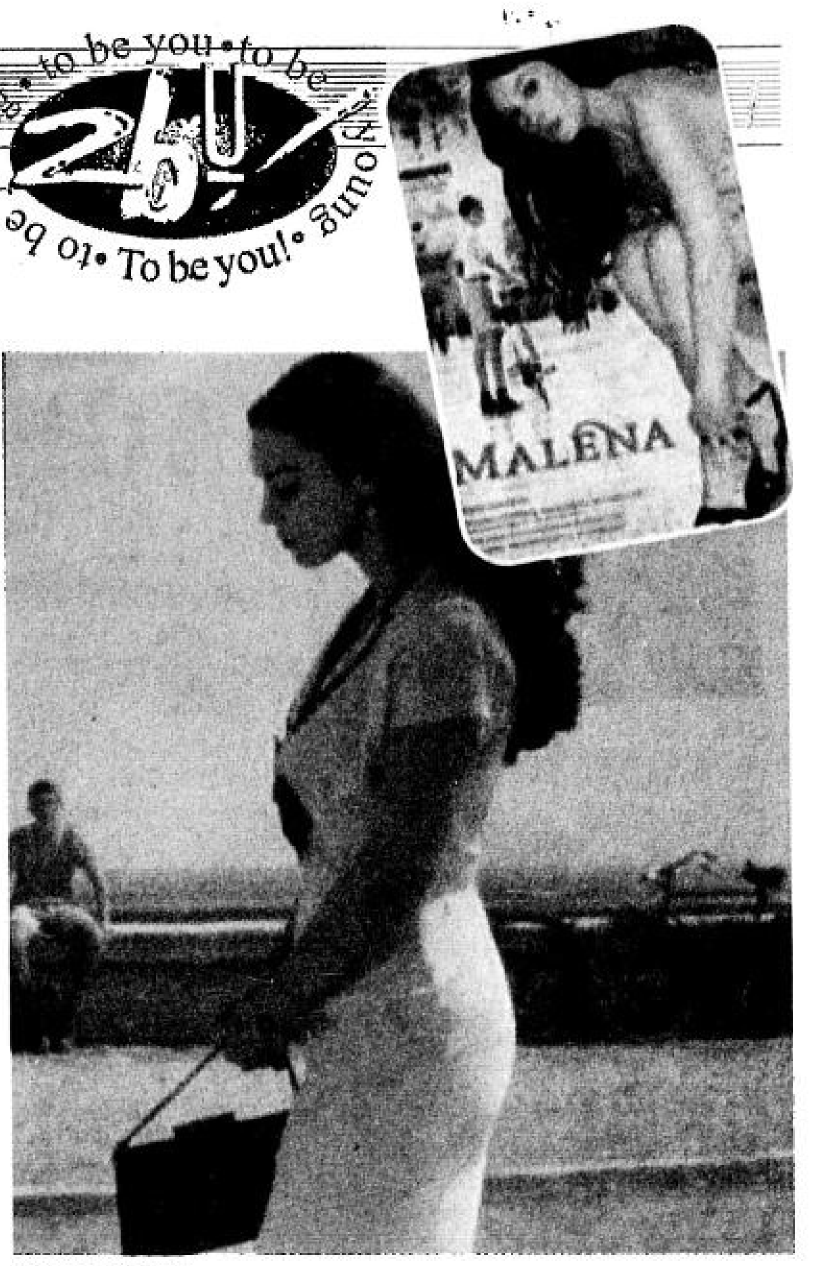
But while the film seems to tell her story—in a lush, rhapsodic way that mesmerizes and thrills (the cinematography! the music! the editing!)—this is really a story about the storyteller. A growing-up story against the broad background of war, amid food rations and bombs falling on the town just like that. Of religious hysteria and adolescent adventures. Of personal obsession and public hypocrisy.

Just when you think the film is at an end, Malena's story and the narrator's story merge seamlessly when someone from the past appears—and only 13-year-old Renato Amoroso, the narrator, can provide a somewhat happy ending. Somewhat happy, because our narrator is helpless to provide even an ending. Only Malena can.

And when she does, in two quiet scenes that take the town by storm, we all realize that redemption and rebirth are hard-earned and well worth it.

The Italian actress Monica Belucci plays Malena, and Giuseppe Sulfaro is unforgettable as Renato. "Malena," which has English subtitles, earned Oscar nominations this year—for the breathtaking cinematography and for the original music score by Ennio Moricone.

E-mail the author at mozpas@yahoo.com



WORLD WAR II BOMBSHELL. Monica Belucci is Malena and Giuseppe Sulfaro is the lovestruck 13-year-old Renato in this powerful film.

CHOCOLATERIE
Maya

CHOCO LOCO. Juliette Binoche gets a best-actress Oscar... almost.

FOOTLOOSE. Binoche and Depp defy conventions.

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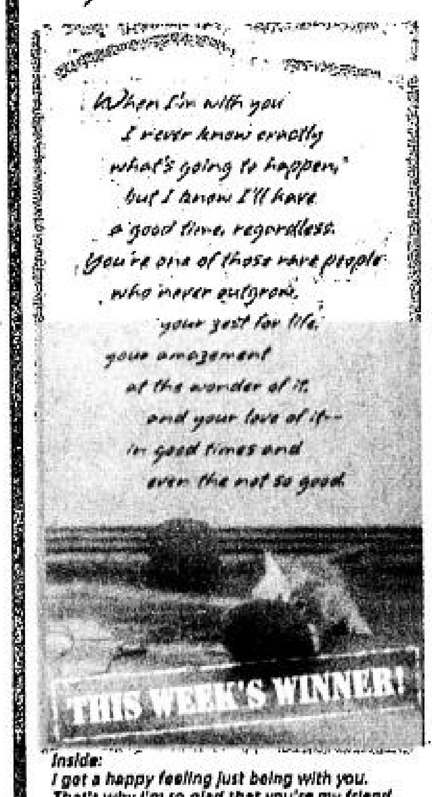
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what's going to happen
but I know I'll have
a good time, regardless.
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who never outgrows
your zest for life,
your amazement
at the wonder of it,
and your love of it—
in good times and
even the not so good.

THIS WEEK'S WINNER!

Inside:
I got a happy feeling just being with you.
That's why I'm so glad that you're my friend.

It was an ordinary afternoon. Erica and I had just finished watching a "Simplify Your Life" episode on Oprah and we were raring and spirited to get rid of the unnecessary junk in our lives. Amidst her tornado-wrecked room, mementos of our six-year-old friendship came spilling out. Silly notes, horrible pictures, artifacts and trinkets of our misadventures. The next minute we were in contemplative silence as we remembered our not so great times. It was more like an archaeological dig of our friendship. Then Erica pulled out a **Between You and Me** card. Brand new, plastic cover and all, a basically empty card. She handed it to me with a shrug and said, "Here, this is for you." I looked at the blank card, somewhat surprised and asked, "Where's my mushy dedication?" Without even looking up, she told me matter-of-factly, "You know what you mean to me and at least now you can recycle the card and give it to someone else." And that was that.

Sometimes, silence and even an empty card is more than enough between real friends.

I do believe in strong everyday friendships like the one I share with Erica. Ours is a silly, petty kind of friendship, held together by genuine care and love. Lots of laughter, tons of fun but when the hard times arrive we know that the other will not be far behind.

- Catalina Michelle C. Tiña
c/o Banawa Petron
R. Duterte Street,
Banawa, Cebu City 6000

Congrats, Catalina! You and Erica won this!

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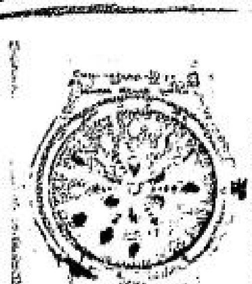
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MOVIES TO WATCH

Thou shall give 'The Ten Commandments' a rest

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

IF Cecil B. de Mille's "Ten Commandments" is the only thing available to watch then I might as well do the *pasyon* this Holy Week. But wait! Thank heavens, there are other sacred flicks to watch aside from the four-hour movie about the most famous Hebrew.

With the help of a religious mother and a film-buff sister, I was able to dig a couple of movies, but they're mostly about the lives of saints and the usual picks like "The Sound of Music." I started asking people around for suggestions ("Chocolat"? Are you sure?) and I surfed imdb.com (Keyword: Jesus, search results: "Last Temptation of Jesus Christ"?).

Actually such flicks don't have to concern a Biblical figure or Franco Zeffirelli. Some even recommended flicks you would usually blame as cause of violence. "'Pulp Fiction' contains a very Catholic view of repentance," says Andrew Ty, a lecturer on film studies at the Ateneo. Well, as long as the theme is connected with the spirit of Lent, we can have a do-it-yourself Holy Week filmfest. Just don't forget the *pasyon*.

JENNIFER JONES
The Song of Bernadette

My top picks

"The Song of Bernadette" (1943)

Before the three kids of Fatima and the so-called fraud from Agoo, there was a poor, sickly but beautiful teenager named Bernadette Soubirous who saw a beautiful lady in a dumpsite.

Done in black and white, "The Song of Bernadette" is the biopic of the world's most beautiful and incorruptible saint. This is a top pick in the bios of saints section since this movie won the Oscars and also tells the history of a famous apparition site of the Virgin Mary—Lourdes.

The middle part is dragging though. I got irritated for one whole hour with the townsfolk accusing Bernadette of being nuts and refusing to believe that she saw the Virgin Mary. Well, like what has been said in the first part of the movie, "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe in God, no explanation is possible."

"Marcelino Pan y Vino" (1954)

Another apparition movie but this time it's about Jesus Christ and an adorable but sometimes naughty orphan. Marcelino finds a man in the stockroom in the monastery he lives in. The man/statue is touched whenever Marcelino would give him bread, wine and blankets. When the man decides to give Marcelino a reward, Marcelino does not ask for a new toy or more food but a chance to see his dead mother. Of course, the man gives the little boy his wish.

Among all the movies I watched in the past week, this one made me cry buckets. This is the same movie my classmates and I watched during our recollection. We were only 8 years old then, about the same age as Marcelino so our CLE teacher gave us major guilt trips ("You see! You see! Be lucky you have a mom! Be lucky you have food!") This is the movie for those with "low-tolerance for long movies," relatives and bratty cousins. The 1½ flick is very touching and kid-friendly.

PABLITO CALVO
Marcelino
PAN Y VINO

"A Man For All Seasons"

The man is not Jesus Christ or a saint but Sir Thomas Moore, the patron saint of lawyers and politicians. The movie centers on Moore and his conscience which irritated King Henry VIII of England. The King wishes to marry his brother's widow, Ann Boleyn, since Catherine, his wife, is "as barren as a brick" and can't produce a son. He still doesn't give in to the King's demands and like the other guys who stood for what they believe in, he was beheaded in the end.

A lot of people recommended this movie and I liked it. I was raving about it the next day I watched it and many were surprised since this is a must-see and I only watched it now. The film is in Technicolor and it's worth every minute of your attention. This is the movie to watch on a boring Black Saturday.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

"Saksi sa Kasaysayan" or "Edsa Dos by The Correspondents"

These are not movies but documentaries that I'm sure everybody can relate to. A documentary about Edsa II, it chronicles everything from the oathtaking at Barasoain Church to the oathtaking at the Edsa Shrine. This comes in handy whenever you run out of intentions for your Lent prayers (Please, pray for the actor, forgive that senator, bless the Governor).

Screenwriter Jun Lana recommends the following:

- "A Nun's Story"
- "The Cardinal"
- "Rocket Gibraltar"
- "A Man for All Seasons"
- "Dead Man Walking"
- "Tanging Yaman"
- "Schindler's List"
- "Of Mice and Men"
- "Romero"
- "Leap of Faith"

Andrew Ty recommends "Itim" by Mike de Leon.

E-mail the author at tammydavid@pinoycentral.com

She fell in love with her best friend but keeps it to herself

September Mahino & Carlos Garchitorena

DEAR Caloy and Sep,

I'm a high school student doing great in my academics but not in my love life.

I have a great *barkada* in school, actually almost everyone in our class is my *kabarkada*. And all of them are my best friends but my problem began when I developed a special feeling for my best friend. We became more than just friends but we had to break up because of personal problems. We've become friends again.

One of our *barkada* went into a relationship that didn't last long. The girl broke up with my best friend. In a short time, we became close to each other. Then I fell in love with my best friend but I haven't told him because I'm so afraid that he won't talk to me anymore. But as I keep my feelings to myself, and as he keeps on wanting his ex back, I begin to get mad at the girl.

But later on, I've noticed that my ex has become insecure with my best friend. He even called him "*traydor*" and told him that "*ikaw lang pala ang aagaw.*" But I ignored it for I thought that he was just joking. But I found out later that he wasn't. My ex got mad at my best friend.

But when I saw my ex and his new best friend playing sweet music together, I got jealous.

I'm really tired of hiding my feelings but scared at the same time to let them know. Should I let them know or not? Should I stop such foolishness? Please help me, guys.

INENG

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

When Harry met Sally, he told her on the long drive to New York: Men and women can't be friends. Why? Sally asked. The sex part always gets in the way.

There is a good reason, Ineng, that there has been a continual war between the sexes. So much so that I had to peel myself off from HBO yesterday watching a cheap B-movie (Gasp! A B-movie on HBO?) on a female conspiracy to replace sperm delivery systems (men) with test tubes and cyber implants. My astute sensitivities predict that in a hundred years, the species called "men" will be given a token honor in the form of a small gallery in the International Space Station Museum, in an annex where they keep American cars and other useless trends that slipped through the cracks of sensibility like "Erap" and "Dubya."

To honor the impact of men, featured will be television sets for each of the sports channels showing reruns of defunct sports such as American football and ice hockey and a 12-hour rotation of "Baywatch" and WWF. Oprah will be in charge of all regular programming and every month there will be a new "Life's Little Instruction Book."

But it hasn't always been like this. The polarity between men and women is only so glaring in our generation because of a direct distortion of God's greatest acts in creation. I am talking about the irrepressible influence by women on the lives of men. Not cloning, not solid waste management... monogamy!

Ever been mesmerized by scenes unexplainable and untraceable in your mind like images from a hidden slide projector or one of those subliminal Absolut Vodka nights? African plains, the Kalahari tribe, forest fires and skirmishes with hyenas... these are the archetypal imprints left behind from our early stages of consciousness that have been triggered by hours watching nature channels. Something about stalking Wildebeest in the Serengeti makes our blood tingle at one point or another. This animal instinct to kill and, er, propagate has been replaced by a snarl under our breath when the grocery bagger squeezes your kilo of bacon too hard.

Face it. We are caged animals. Some cages are called conscience, others guilt, propriety and religion. Our zoo walls cemented with consciousness, in a nice brick-red hue like the apple that Eve first sank her sharp pretty pearly whites into, and from then on has changed man's diet forever.

Historically speaking, these voluptuous animals have lain in wait under the shroud of blonde and red lipstick, letting the foolish patriarchs make the mistakes in global policy like pinhead American Presidunk. When the world leaders will be crying to Ra for forgiveness and answers how, why and where did we go wrong?.. I have good money that Oprah will quietly clear her throat and negotiate her transition into power. After which she will quietly point to a little dial found on household gas stoves in the world marked "settle" which men have ignored and feared without knowing why.

CALOY

I have always had mixed feelings about people getting romantically entangled with their friends. It can be the best thing that can ever happen to two friends or it can be the worst. I won't expound on the pros and cons in this matter since, I guess, everybody knows what those are already.

In your case, it was a pretty bad idea. Of course, you couldn't have helped falling in love with your ex, but it did take you a month to patch up your friendship after breaking up. And now that you're getting close to another best friend, your ex's feathers got more than a bit ruffled. I can only imagine what could happen if you let the emotional cat out of the bag.

You can't stop whatever it is you're feeling for your best friend, of course, but you can prevent it from making a train wreck out of you, your best friend and your ex's friendship. How? By not attempting to get any closer to your best friend than you already are. How to do this? Accept that your best friend still wants his ex back. If you can get over your jealousy over the other girl, maybe, just maybe, you can get past your feelings for your best friend, too. I know it doesn't sound logical but my friends and I have proven to ourselves that the presence of a girlfriend or a still-loved ex-girlfriend is one of the biggest crush turnoffs. That may not work for you but it won't hurt to try it. Bottom line is, don't tell your best friend about your feelings. It can only add to his confusion and bring you embarrassment—like what you've said, you just know that if you open up to him, he won't... what? I'm sorry, I don't understand what you meant but it sounded pretty bad so avoid it at all means.

Good luck.

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Fueled by the Word

BY MAUI V. REYES

WE were at this small garden right in front of St. Francis Square, where a tall, tattooed man was being photographed. Two girls approached me and asked, "Is he an artist?" I told them, "Yes, he's in a band."

"I played for your church before," he says to them.

Michael Turner, lead vocalist and guitarist of the band Battery, does not look like the kind of person who would say that. In fact, when I saw him sitting in this coffee shop where we met, I got scared of the guy. Little did I know that the tall guy with the bandana is just your average rock musician. Well, okay, maybe except for the fact that he's a missionary who happens to be in the Philippines for some training before being shipped to India (but more of that later).

This NU 107 Guitarist of the Year (which he won at last year's rock awards), who started playing for The Breed, may be pretty vocal about his faith in God and his beliefs, but it's not like he didn't get through some bumpy roads in the past. He's open about the things he's gone through—obviously not a candy-coated road to adolescence.

"My family goes to church, but they're not really like super religious or anything. I stopped going to church when I was 13. I thought, 'Why bother? What's the use?' It's just a waste of time," he says. "And then I just started hearing the Gospel... and you know, it made sense. But then I started getting into all the religious stuff [that you have to do], and I just said, 'Forget it, what's the use?'"

"[My past] is pretty public knowledge. I didn't really get into drugs until I was 18, when I was in college," he continues. "I was into sports and a lot of the guys on the team were heavy drug users, so it was like, 'Yeah! We're gonna win!' But they were just really trying to hide the redness in their eyes," he laughs.

Don't think he's out to start a church or anything. Sure, he may talk a lot about religion, but when it comes to his music, he'd rather veer away from the "Christian rock" stereotype—and what you get is just good ol' rock done by three highly spiritual people. Their self-titled album, composed of 14 tracks (one an acoustic little ditty), goes through roller-coaster twists and turns of riffs and beats. And the lyrics, which speak of life and living it, may be sprinkled with a bit of spirituality, but as Michael says, "What a person believes has an effect on their art."

And it does...

Brief history of Battery.

I used to play with The Breed, played with them for one album, then we became a three-piece band for a very short time. We called the band Battery. We just liked the name... basically we had l,ike, 300 names and that was one name that we liked. There's no special meaning, it just sounds good. And basically Chris (Salva), Patrick (Dy) and I all knew each other, sort of... Chris was a lead guitar player and Patrick used to play in this band called Storm Front, but I didn't know him then, those were the '80s, the glam rock days. We all met through church, and Chris was playing guitar with his band in our church and the worship team, and Patrick asked me if I was interested in putting a band together. And since we already had a little publicity from Battery, I just thought, [we'll] just keep the name so people knew at least one person. We won't have to start completely from ground zero. That always takes so long."

You made the switch from The Breed to Battery—are there any differences between the two?

This band is technically way better. I don't have to write so simple. Another difference is this is more "modern" sounding.

Battery started in '98. Some bands take so long before they get noticed.

Well, my theory's always been, if you're with a band and you're not in the studio, like, in a serious recording process within a year and a half, you're either in the wrong business or in the wrong band. Because it shouldn't really take that long, if you get together with guys who are serious and professional. But then there are times when it's a market issue. When your music just isn't being accepted, when you're ahead of your time or behind your time, or the market's glutted. For example, if we came out as a rap/rock band, who's gonna sign us? Or if your music is ahead of your time... we're just being blessed, you know... you're at the right place at the right time. But we shopped around a lot. I was taking demos to companies, but we didn't really find a place that we felt like we should be.

You were actually a missionary, right?

Yeah. I actually came here on my way to India. I was going to India to start a church.

Why?

I don't know. I thought that was God's plan. I came here to be trained as a cross-culture missionary. I mean, you know the US and India, that's kind of like night and day. I've never even been out of the US before.

So were you in a band while you were in the US?

I was in a band back in 1988 called Salem's Lot. And we were recording in Nashville. We were working with these really big producers and directors or whatever you call them, managers... and they basically wanted me to axe all the band members and get new band members and I was just, forget it. I wasn't that into it. And another thing.. you know this was the late '80s so we were sounding like Pantera and Iron Maiden, and they were trying to make us sound like Def Leppard. So we got into the studio and they had, like, 14 vocal tracks in the background and I'm like, wait a minute..

Does being a missionary have any effect on your music?

Well, yeah, I think that what a person believes has an effect on their art. Doesn't matter if you're a musician or artist. If you believe that this is all there is and when you're dead, you're dead. I mean, that's got to have some effect on the kind of art you produce, whatever your background is. I mean, if your parents pour gasoline on you and set you on fire, you're gonna have a certain attitude, you know? But you know, what I think is important is that people should be genuine. I think it's stupid when people fake it, when they follow someone else. Let's say, he has issues with his parents and it was hard for him growing up and he writes about that and [someone] will write about that too when he's had a happy childhood. It's so stupid. You should be genuine with your music.

Let's talk about you realizing God was for real...

When I was 18, I just prayed and said, 'God, if you're real, I'm giving my life to You,' and I could just remember that it was like this giant weight was lifted off my body. It was like a supernatural experience. And then I knew, this is real, God is real. And so then, after I gave my life to the Lord, I mean, instead of anybody really telling me what it meant to be a Christian, to serve God, and I just got into the whole 'now you have to do this, do this, and this' religious thing, and I just got sick of it. So I just thought, forget that. Then I got into the occult, devil-worship and stuff. I got into Wicca and stuff... but Wicca's goofy, when you get to the bottom line of Wicca it's basically worshipping the devil, but they won't admit it. But you know what's funny is that all religions borrow from the truth anyway, like what Wiccan says, "What you do comes back to you?" Well, the Bible says, "What you reap, you sow." So people get sucked into stuff that's true, but it's not all true. It's like, you give M&M's to little kids, they don't see if there's poison sprinkled on it, they just see little M&M's. I was a true Satanist. I say that because you know all those that are part of the church of Satan, they don't believe in the devil, they're humanists, what they believe is the evolutionary theory, the selection of a superior race. But a true Satanist believes that Jesus and Lord, and Lucifer is a fallen angel, and it all matters who's going to win in the end. I mean, sometimes they still believe Lucifer's going to lose but they still follow him.

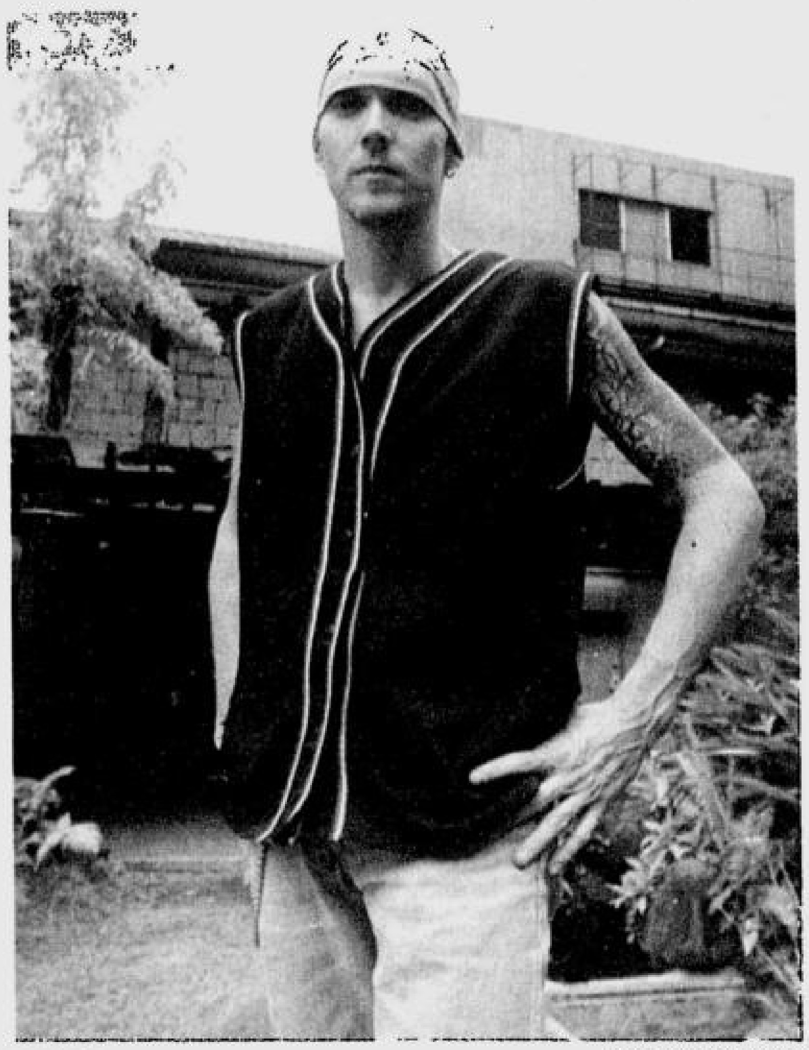
So when did you realize you were doing the wrong thing?

Well, I was with a band and I really had the desire to be successful doing that and I was getting into a lot of drugs and that kind of stuff, and all this stuff started happening really fast. We started recording in this major studio that was like, $300 a day, not paying anything for it. And we had a lot of people working with us, famous producers and stuff. And I just thought, we are not anything special, our band has only been around a few months, and that was when I was into witchcraft and I just realized I wasn't really into it.

See, the most important things in life are not things, but relationships. And right then I didn't have any good relationship with my family, hadn't had any good relationship with anybody, and I didn't have any good relationship with God. I just said, forget all this, and try to get my life right.

And you got into the whole church thing?

Well it wasn't really like, I tried the church. It's not like God said, "Okay, you don't have a choice, you're coming with me!" See that's true Christianity.. I mean, it's not like you don't have a choice, you have a choice. It's just that, if you choose to serve God or yourself. Well, see, sometimes the church has made itself irrelevant to the culture, or sometimes the society. And sometimes, it's just a religion. For instance, I believe, the church is the Universal Church, the Apostle's Creed says, "One Holy Catholic Church," that doesn't mean Roman Catholic, that means One Church. So I believe that. But I also believe that there are people who are Protestants, or Roman Catholic, who don't even know God, they don't have any relationship with God, they just do all these religious stuff, and that's not real Christianity. I mean, people wearing the nametags and all, that's not a real relationship with God, that's like joining the army, where it's "You be just like us, you do this." God made us unique individuals and not carbon copies.



MIKE Turner

PHOTO: ROGER CARPIO

Define Christian rock.

The way I'd define Christian rock is people who [use their music] to express their faith, and maybe encourage Christians in their faith.

So just because you're Christian doesn't mean your music has to be Christian?

No, I don't think so. I mean, there are a lot of people out there who are believers but not many people know that because they don't talk about it. Not everybody's called to present their art in that sense...that's one thing that [makes the church look bad] is just this really mediocre art. But the church used to have the best art of them all. Like, centuries ago, all the great artists and musicians were followers of God. But then they said, "We don't want to have anything to do with dance anymore, that's the work of the devil," or "We don't want to have anything to do with music anymore, that's the work of the devil." And the devil's like, "Great, I'll take it! If you don't want to be involved in it, I'll take it!" And the job of the Church is to be involved in every area of society, not to withdraw or cut yourself off.

What do you think of those bands that use their popularity to relay God's message?

I think it's okay. Because, okay, if you are on a platform of any kind, you are an influence. Like the athletes who say, "I'm not a role model." Well, you're an idiot, you are a role model, you're a professional athlete. People look up to you. So artists who produce art, they're gonna influence people. Words and art have great influence on people. And I have the greatest respect for people who are honest about what they do and who they are.

But that's a lot of responsibility—isn't it like being stripped of your right to be yourself?

Well, I think if you're honest with people and you let them know from the start that you're not perfect. See, that really matters if you're a Christian. Because you know what, if it was anything else, a lot of people wouldn't care what you do.

Did you ever consider marketing yourselves as a Christian rock band?

No... because we're not doing it to try hitting the biggest market. Because if we were, I'd be doing boy-band music, singing Tagalog pop love songs. What I'm trying to do is use the gift God's given me and present my viewpoint and be the best as I can be as a musician and artist.

Does it bother you that people label Battery as a Christian rock band?

They're gonna do it anyway. What bothers me more is that they don't label other bands. Like we're doing this music camp in Antipolo, then Cebu and Davao, around the first week of May. And there's South Border and stuff... and not too many people call South Border a Christian band. And here they are, playing at this camp [with worship leaders]. On the other hand, nobody calls Greyhoundz a Mormon band. Or when a band does shabu, it's not like they're a shabu band. It's kinda goofy that the ones who get labeled are the Christians. Kinda makes you wonder why we're the only one who gets labeled.

How long did it take to record your album?

Total time was about three weeks. It was really fast. We started recording in '99, six months after we got together. We were doing the demo, but we kept recording over the course of the year, so it took that long, but after that the time we took in the studio was just a couple of weeks. And by the time we finished it, we thought, there's no sense in going back and re-recording it. I mean, there are things I would want to change but then that would mean we start from scratch and some of the songs have already been on the radio. So might as well just put this thing out. [The album] is pretty much a demo, just remastered and stuff.

Then you make pretty good demos.

Thanks. Producers can listen and tell. But for me it was an experiment because I've never done any producing and I just wanted to do it.

Does everyone bring different things to the creating table?

On this album it's about half me. I came in and said, "Here are the songs," and we did a bit of alterations on a couple of the songs, and the other half, it was all of us. I'd say, "Here's a riff," or Patrick will say, "Here's a pretty nice drum beat." That's the way we work. [In songwriting] I'm the primary songwriter. Chris is starting to think like a bass player, because he's a guitar player. But I'll probably always do the lyrics.

Is it better to release an album independently?

I think it's totally up to you, it just depends on what you want. If you want to make sure you get all the money and stuff for sure, you do it independently. But if you want to have the mechanism of the music industry behind you and all that promotion, and the money that the label can put in marketing, well better not do it independently. Because if you're independent, you have to walk [your album] in every store. If you're in a major label, that's automatic.

Is major distribution more important than creative control?

See, we're not held back from creative control anyway, and Rock Records is a major label. They're just new here, and their main office is in Taiwan, and Rock is like the second or third biggest label here in Southeast Asia. People would be surprised when they start to distribute to Singapore or Taiwan in the next year. As for creative control, we don't want to be a "one station" band. I mean, [at] NU we can do independently. We were already being played there even before we got signed. But we want to get on some other stations. But most of the other stations are payola stations, and to get played on there you have to pay them. It's totally backward in the other side of the world.

How do you rev yourself up before every show?

Um, we burn candles and sacrifice roosters. (Laughs) Just get warmed up, warm up my voice, just to not kill myself. Practice.

* * *

Always writing, Michael brings out a small piece of paper from his bag. "I have this song I'm trying to finish," he says. "It's about a mass murderer, someone who just does all these heinous crimes... They believe in the Darwinian evolution. They believe there's no consequence to what they do... if it's right or wrong."

The topic moves on to the possibility of him writing in Tagalog. I ask him how long he's been here. "Six years, and I can speak a little Tagalog, but when I do, people always talk to me in English anyway, so what's the use? Like, I was in a cab the other day, and I say, '*Kaliwa*,' and the driver goes, 'Left?' Gee, isn't that what I just said?!"

Well, now that's another story.

Check out Battery at the Pulp party, April 30, and at Mayric's every first Saturday of the month. Battery's self-titled album is available under Rock Records.

Sex, God and rock 'n' roll

2bU! surveys the contemporary Christian rock scene and discovers albums that, while not exactly Lenten fare, give the listener a groovy kind of God

REVIEWS

THE FIRST time I encountered the term "Christian rock" was when my best friend, Amy Dolinsky, who's a devoted Christian, sent me a mix tape with a song by Switchfoot in it. Now, see, I just appreciate the music—I don't care if the musician's a Catholic or a Buddhist or if he spends his free time offering stuff to a pile of rocks. So even if I am Catholic, you can't pay me to go watch Creed live—simply because I hate their music. But since the term "Christian rock" is such a heated debate topic (Does religion matter? Is it really the devil working behind it?), 2bU! decided to spin some CDs in the player and check out just what separates these so-called Christian rock bands from others—well, aside from the fact that they hold Christian worship camp concerts, are very vocal about their faith, lead the crowd into praying with them...

Intermission: The Greatest Hits
dc Talk
Forefront Records

The gist: This is the band's seventh album, and the Tennessee trio finally decided to release it as a "greatest hits" collection. The multiplatinum 1995 release, "Jesus Freak," put dc Talk on the map, and garnered them three Dove Awards, as well as three Grammy awards. Composed of 19 tracks, 11 of them plucked from two albums—"Free at Last" (five songs) and "Jesus Freak" (sic cuts)—the work should have been renamed "The Best of" album. I mean, really, does everyone know these guys exist? The album also boasts two unreleased tracks, "Chance" and "Sugar Coat It."

Preaching factor: Five out of five. Does the line "Jesus is all right with me/I don't care what they may say/I don't care what they may do" sound like a youth concert waiting to happen? The songs are splattered with Christian terms. dc wouldn't have called themselves "decent Christians" for nothing. Their songs mostly deal with peer pressure, feeling God, the faith, and of course, the Gospel.

Worthy tracks: "Consume Me," a slow-driven worship song that speaks of their passion for their religion, and "Hardway," a sort of prodigal-son track dealing with straying from the righteous path and rediscovering it. The rapping parts in some songs pretty much bring your worship spirits up (that is, if you're into the whole "singing is prayer twice over" thing).

The downside: Did these guys guest on "Sesame Street"? Okay, I know absolutely nothing about dc Talk, but for someone who grew up listening to contemporary rock, I feel a little disco jive in some of their tracks.

The Verdict: Pack up your sleeping bags and bibles—we're going to an all-weekend worship concert!

Bleach
Bleach
Forefront Records

The gist: Four musicians from Kentucky, three of whom majored in Youth Ministry at KCC (Kentucky Christian College) and formed the band there as well. They took up the name Bleach since they thought the idea of taking something soiled and making it clean again was cool. Has gone through some line-up changes, but still sticks to their message of faith. Their 1999 release, "Bleach," contains 12 tracks of rock-pop tunes that teens can really relate to—like peer pressure and asking for guidance ("Breathe"), and turning back to God ("All to You").

Preaching factor: Four out of five. There are some songs that can pass off as "sweet, sentimental" slow rock tunes, but are really worship songs ("All that's sweet"). Every song is basically a worship song, even the closing track, "What will your anthem be?" which makes listeners think twice about their lives ("What will your anthem be/here it is/let the truth be told").

Worthy tracks: "Race," a fast-paced song that almost sounds punk, and "Sun Stands Still," a major praise song ("Oh Jesus, you're the One/Who puts the Hallelujahs on my lips") with good riffs and a nice melody. "All to you" is also a really nice slow worship song, and "Reasons" hit home base. It's about being too preoccupied with other things and forgetting that God has been there all the time.

mxpx
the ever passing moment

The downside: Music-wise, these guys have done their homework when it comes to hitting teenagers in the head with their tunes. Lyrically, the only market they'll probably be able to hit on the head would be the diehard Jesus freaks. Even though they come up with major toe-tapping songs (well, our feet get tired of tapping, too), some songs sound exactly like the last one.

The verdict: "Youth ministers never grow up. They can relate to kids," says lead singer Dave Baysinger in their Forefront press release. And there's your lesson for today; be a youth minister, make youth-friendly music, and you reach the Christian youth-consumer market. Bleach is okay for fans of rock-pop.

The Fundamental Elements of Southtown
P.O.D.
Atlantic Records

The gist: P.O.D. (Payable on Death) released three indie albums under their label Rescue Records, sold 30,000 units of their indie album, "Brown," and discovered their gold after drummer Wuv's cousin Sonny gained confidence in rapping (he used to rap with his back to the audience). Wuv's father was a drug addict, found God, and started bringing his son to church with him. Wuv also claims God saved his parent's marriage. "The Fundamentals of Southtown" is the band's first LP under a major record label (next to "The Warriors" EP).

Preaching factor: Three out of five. You need to sit back and read the lyrics before you realize you're listening to a Christian band. And not everyone is gifted with the capacity to make out a screaming vocalist's words. Songs like "Rock the Party" has lyrics like, "We came here to rock this jam/spread His love is the master plan," then jumps into a whole "party all night long, get up and go" song.

Worthy tracks: "Set your Eyes to Zion" is an uplifting track, encouraging people to seek salvation, it is probably the most religious track. "Bullet in the Sky" is also a winner, and "Follow Me" ("Reign most high/Almighty Reign, Most High"), is one of those songs that really make you think. "Tribal" is a song that asks, "Where do you stand in this battle cry," and of course, "Lie Down," a track also found on the "Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2" soundtrack.

Downside: The album can do without some of the interludes. Also, well, just how many rap/rock bands do we need?

The verdict: Finally, a band straightedge punk Christians can call their own. If you want to reach out to teens, you have to speak their language, dress like them, and sing songs they dub as "cool." And how can touring with Cypress Hill, Pennywise and opening for Green Day not be cool?

The Ever Passing Moment
MXPX
A&M Records/Tooth & Nail

The gist: Composed of 23-year-olds whose resumé includes five studio albums, one live album, a home video, and sharing the stage with the Sex Pistols at the age of 18. With a snowboard sponsorship in their name, MXPX broke out of the underground punk scene with their album, "Life in General," their third studio album. On "The Ever Passing Moment" (their fifth studio album), the Bremerton, WA punk trio has Jerry Finn (Green Day, Blink 182) produce the album, which certifies it a punk hit.

Preaching factor: Two out of five. Most of the songs on this album are about love and growing up—the epitome of being a teen. What sets MXPX apart is they don't come across as whiny, smart-ass guys. Squeaky-clean with meaningful lyrics, the band gets the basic values and message of life across without the teens knowing it. Songs like "Foolish" makes people question what they believe in ("Some people say it's foolish to believe/in what we cannot see, so we're deceive/I'm not here to make you all agree").

Worthy tracks: The single "My Life Story," obviously about a guy who can't commit (he keeps making up excuses for not showing up), "Buildings Tumble," which is about being true to yourself ("Let the weak say I am strong/Let yourself say I was wrong"). "Is the Answer in the Question" obviously has that Green Day influence in it. "Educated Guess" deals with how people grow up and life gets complicated, while "One Step Closer to Life" urges people live life to the fullest, and "Unsaid" lets people leave all the complicated things behind.

The downside: "Prove to the World" has good hooks and the guys play their instruments well, but dude, you want to prove to the world *what*?

The verdict: They may not sing about boogers and original pranksters, but MXPX knows how to write good lyrics and play instruments well. They're also quick to point out their mistakes, which makes teens relate to them more. As they say on the track "It's Undeniable," "The first step that I needed to take was giving God control/That's a struggle for me every day and I'm letting you all know/There's a willingness that comes alive." ***Maui V. Reyes***

What to do with smudgy eyeliner and other problems

I AM one of those who will forget everything but eye makeup because my eyes are really small and without a crease and I need shading to bring them out. My problem is that my eyeliner keeps smearing. I have tried all sorts that promise "all-day wear" but they always smear under the eyes. I read somewhere that an eyeliner should only be applied on the upper lids but my boss and friends at work told me my eyes still look puffy and my eye makeup looks incomplete. Pictures, too, speak for themselves. Is there a way for it to stay put?

RACOON

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

However long-wearing and waterproof any eye makeup (especially eyeliner) promises to be, it will lose hands down to oil. It is skin oils that make your eyeliner smear. Patting tons of powder on this area will only delay the inevitable as humid weather will bring out sweat that will wash away the powder and distribute the oil all over your face. The least smearable eyeliner is cake eyeliner which resembles powder eyeshadow and which one has to wet and apply with an eyeliner brush but looks a little too heavy for my taste. I have given up eyeliner totally and use powder eye shadow which I apply dry with a skinny brush for my under eye area. When oil gets to it, the powder offers strong resistance and any smearing actually has a "sexy" effect of smoky eyes. Use shades of brown and gray. You may purchase a great eyeliner brush in cosmetic stalls such as Faces (Black Shop), Watercolors and Central Maquillage.

THANKS a whole lot to your column that I have been following for the past two years. I have found the products that cleared my greasy face of my acne. One thing that stands in the way of flawless complexion for me though is these bumps on my forehead (between brows) and sides of my nose. These are not whiteheads because they are of the same color as my skin but are rough like chicken skin and seem to be coming out from my pores. What are they and how do I get rid of them?

DANIELLE

This condition is common to people with oily skin and is nothing more than clogged pores. These rough bumps are an accumulation of dead skin cells and oil that are blocked from release by surface skin that should have been replaced but stubbornly refuse to let go of our face. This is what causes oily skin to break out in zits. Exfoliation with skin-care products containing BHA, AHA or fruit acids and retinoic acids will dissolve the glue-like substance holding the stubborn dead skin cells together which will dislodge them from your face. Refrain from using your pimple medicine to do the job as these may aggravate the problem by drying out the skin further without exfoliating, causing more oil and dead skin to be trapped. You may try: Neutrogena Pore Refining products, Godiva AHA cream and Extraderm.

I AM a guy with invisible eyebrows and known for it! They are thin and light colored. My sis tried pencilling them in but my officemates said they were noticeable and laughed at me. I won't have them tattooed either. What product does your cohost Raul Castro use on his? It looks so natural. I don't mind putting on makeup as long as it's not obvious.

FRUSTRATED ITALIANO

Sorry, Raul's eyebrows are naturally dark and thick and he puts nothing on them. As long as there are hair strands on that area, you can bring them out by having it dyed at the barber or coloring them lightly with powder shadow (safer option). For the latter, use a stiff eyebrow brush or baby toothbrush for application. The pigment will cling to existing hair strands giving you more of a "face." For those with really no eyebrows, this method won't fool anyone at close range as brows will still look painted.

For any questions, or products you want to road test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805

Nestle Summer Getaway
Only One Wrapper to Win!
1 Romantic Retreat Showcase
4 Family Paradise Showcase

1st Prize
4 Trips for 2 to Pacific Island Club, Saipan + $200
2nd Prize
4 Trips for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + P5,000
3rd Prize
20 winners of P5,000

1st Prize
4 Trips for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200
2nd Prize
4 Trips for 4 to Hotel Fleuris, Palawan + P5,000
3rd Prize
20 winners of P5,000

Put those shades on 'cause Nestle and Goya are taking you to the best beaches here and abroad. All you need is one wrapper for a chance to win cash or exotic holiday packages. Hot stuff!

MECHANICS OF THE "NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY" PROMOTION

HERE'S HOW

1. Write your name, address, telephone number, and signature on a piece of paper.
2. Attach this to a single wrapper, label, or pouch of any of the following Nestle or Goya Confectionery products: Kit Kat, Nestle Classic Milk Chocolate, Nestle Classic Eclairs, Fox's, Goya Chocolate Coins, Goya Cubes, Goya Silver Cup, Goya Golden Crown.
3. Drop your entries at the NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY drop boxes at designated Supermarkets and Groceries.
4. Or you may send your entries to any of the following:
   a) Goya, Inc., 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang Marikina City
   b) Nestle Philippines, Inc., 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
   c) Or any Nestle office near you.
5. Draw date is on July 7, 2001 and Cut off date is on June 30, 2001.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All prizes are tax free.
2. All prizes are not convertible to cash but transferable.
3. Total prize to be given away per region (GMA, LUZ, VIS, MIN) are as follows:

Adults 1st Prize Trip for 2 to Pacific Island Club, Saipan + $200.00
2nd Prize Trip for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + P5,000.00
3rd Prize 5 x P5,000.00
Family 1st Prize Trip for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200.00
2nd Prize Trip for 4 to Palawan + P5,000.00
3rd Prize 5 x P5,000.00

4. Draw date is on the 7th of July 2001.
5. Entries will be drawn per showcase per region.
6. The first valid entry drawn in each showcase per region will be declared as the winner.
7. A winner can only win once per showcase per draw. However, a person can win in another showcase in the same draw.
8. Three-fourths of the wrapper, label, pouches or cap must be intact to qualify as an entry.
9. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of telegram shall be forfeited only upon approval of DOH-BFAD.
10. Winners must present any two valid identification papers among the following along with the original telegram of notice when claiming their prizes: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage, Driver's license or SSS ID.
11. A winner for a particular region must be a resident of the area of coverage.
12. All prizes are transferable provided claimants present the following: Letter of authorization from winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of claimant and original telegram sent by Goya, Inc.
13. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatsoever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
14. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestle office on the date indicated in the telegram.
15. All winners will shoulder travel/transportation expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
16. An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise the raffle draw.
17. Goya, Inc.'s decision in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD is deemed final.
18. Nestle reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes. All winners will be notified by mail.
19. All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestle Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging supplier, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are not qualified to join.

DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0101 s. 2001

"Mapa-panga-nga ka sa sarap!"

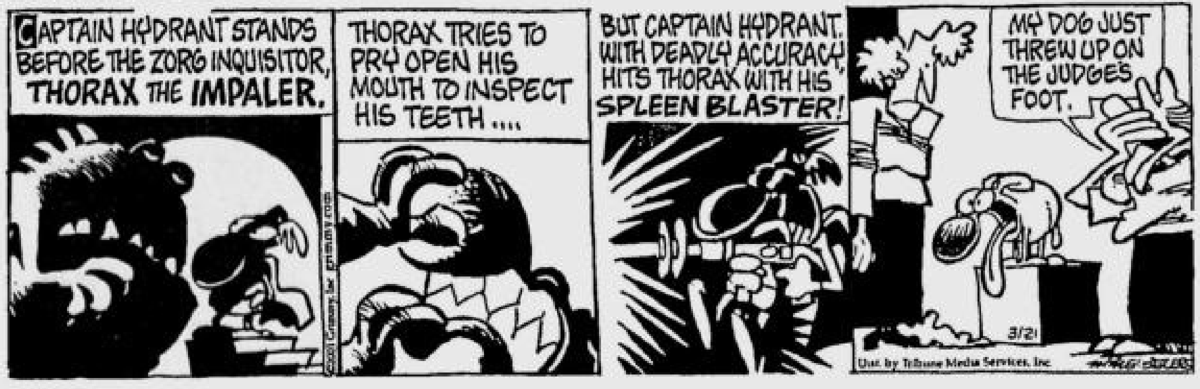
"Aaaaahhh!" Namnamin ang lutong Ilonggo Grill. Mamangha sa lasa ng pinapangarap na panga, kansi, kadios, inihaw na hito, seafood inasal, malasugi, crablets, inihaw na pusit, rellenong bangus, Bacolod ixpress, pansit molo at siyempre pa oooohhh….ang blockbuster na Batchoy! Ang lahat nang ito, dagdag pang sabaw at sarsa at init at amoy…naku po! Kaya tikman ninyo lahat, araw-arawin dapat. Kaon na sa Ilonggo Grill!

Outlets: Ayala Town Center • CSI The City Mall (Dagupan) • Festival Supermall (Alabang) • Glorietta Quad • Harrison Plaza • Landmark • Megacenter (Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija) • Robinson's Galleria • Shangri La -- Foodcourt Shangri La -- 5th Level • SM Arroceros Manila • SM Bacoor • SM Centerpoint • SM Cubao • SM Fairview • SM Makati • SM Megamall • SM San Fernando (Pampanga) • SM Southmall • SM Sucat • Taft Avenue (Across PGH) Waltermart Calamba • Waltermart Carmona

Araw-Araw
ILONGGO GRILL

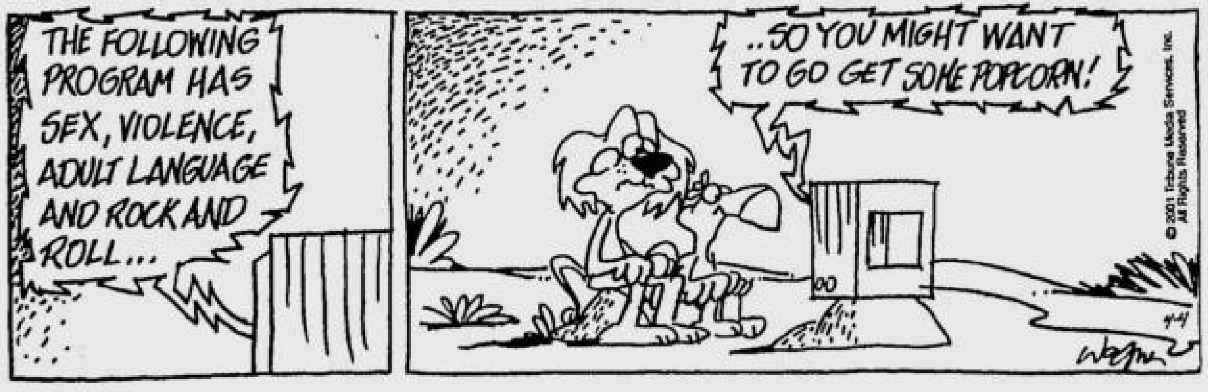
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


CAPTAIN HYDRANT STANDS BEFORE THE ZORG INQUISITOR, THORAX THE IMPALER.
THORAX TRIES TO PRY OPEN HIS MOUTH TO INSPECT HIS TEETH ....
BUT CAPTAIN HYDRANT, WITH DEADLY ACCURACY, HITS THORAX WITH HIS SPLEEN BLASTER!
MY DOG JUST THREW UP ON THE JUDGE'S FOOT.
3/21
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc

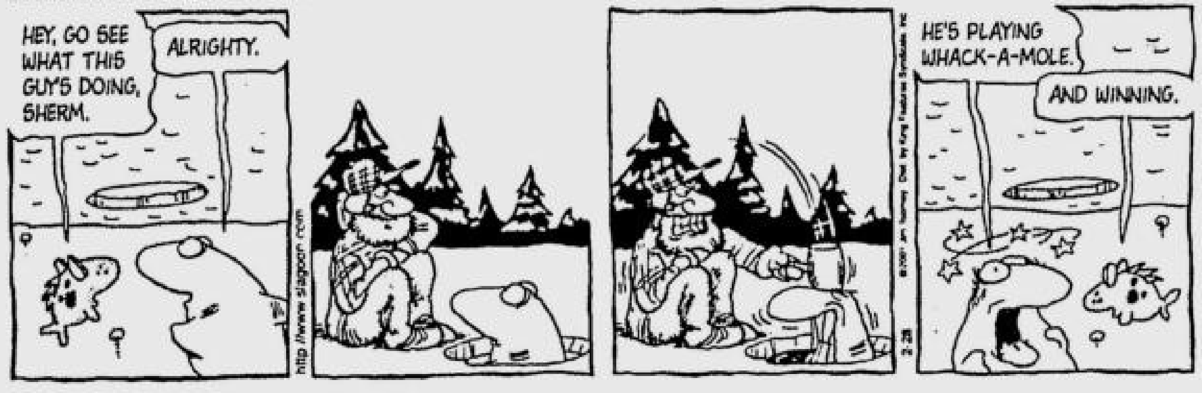
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM HAS SEX, VIOLENCE, ADULT LANGUAGE AND ROCK AND ROLL...
..SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO GO GET SOME POPCORN!
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
4-4
Wagner

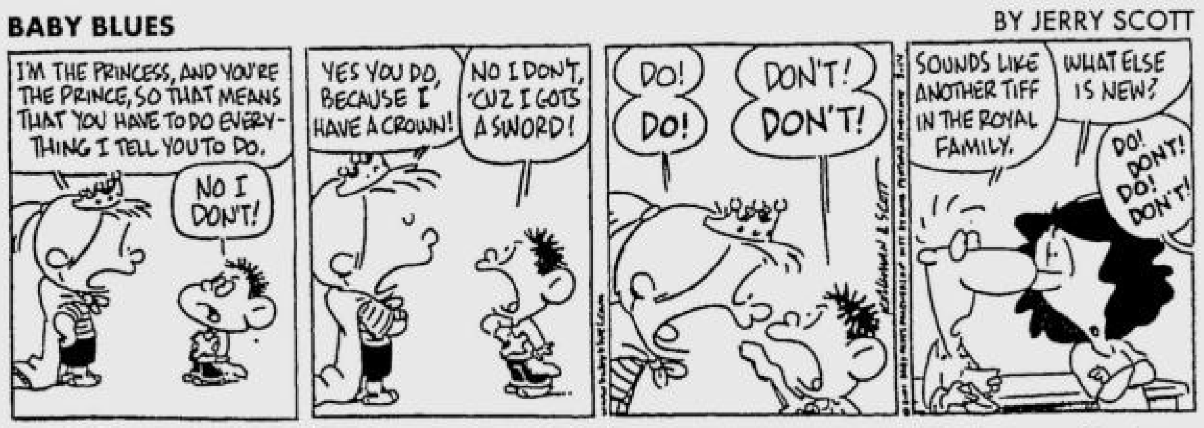
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, GO SEE WHAT THIS GUY'S DOING, SHERM.
ALRIGHTY.
http://www.slagoon.com
HE'S PLAYING WHACK-A-MOLE.
AND WINNING.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M THE PRINCESS, AND YOU'RE THE PRINCE, SO THAT MEANS THAT YOU HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING I TELL YOU TO DO.
NO I DON'T!
YES YOU DO, BECAUSE I HAVE A CROWN!
NO I DON'T, 'CUZ I GOTS A SWORD!
DO! DO!
DON'T! DON'T!
SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER TIFF IN THE ROYAL FAMILY.
WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
DO! DON'T! DO! DON'T!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joel Grey, Ethel Kennedy, Peter Riegert, Michele Scarabelli, Ellen Goodman

Happy Birthday: It's time to make some choices. You are the master of your own destiny, so take hold of your life and decide what will make you happy. It's time to stand your ground and follow your heart. Don't let anyone push you into a direction you don't care to pursue. This can be an eventful year. Your numbers: 7, 15, 22, 26, 34, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Joint ventures will be more successful than you thought possible. Your employer will be pleased with the innovative ideas you implement in your work. Don't give up on love; be more attentive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Expect a lack of sympathy from your partner if you've been stubborn. Don't limit yourself at work or your boss may question how important your position really is. Mistakes are evident.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You are beginning to make a mark at your place of work. You should be able to make notable contributions, which will help you win points and lead to a raise and additional responsibility.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't believe everything your partner says. Deception and evasiveness will prevail, causing misunderstandings. Attend new social functions and expand your circle of friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your lover will be irate if you've been flirtatious or inattentive to his or her needs. Compromise to avoid verbal battles and embarrassment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Entertainment should include sports events or physical activities. Take time to help children with projects that may be too hard for them to do alone. You'll be rewarded for your patience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Positive changes can be made in your domestic environment. Acceptance will be half the battle. You'll be surprised at how well things fall into place if you just let things happen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will make mistakes if you let your emotions take over. Problems with electrical gadgets, water or other necessary implements will cause delays and frustrations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have good ideas that could turn into cash. Be secretive, or someone may try to walk away with your plans. Make alterations that will allow you to start a home-based business.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Further your career by talking to superiors. You may find yourself doing more travel related to business. Don't forget to pay attention to those who love you. All work and no play isn't healthy.

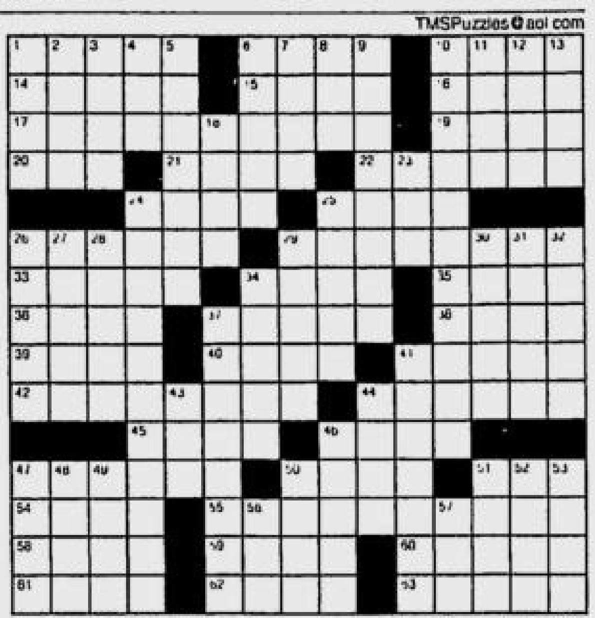
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Dig deep for the information required to make your personal decisions. You have a lot on your plate. Don't hesitate to call things as you see them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel will initiate new friendships. You will have a hankering to find out more about foreign cultures and philosophies. Look to friends for sound advice. You don't want to make a bad move.

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, inquisitive and certainly entertaining. You have adventure and excitement on your mind and will try anything at least once. You are fun-loving and quick to respond to anything and anyone.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By D.J. DeChristopher
Staten Island, NY

2/26/01

ACROSS

1 Backbone
6 Mineral springs
10 Krakatau's neighbor
14 Capital of Afghanistan
15 German philosopher
16 "Ars Amatoria" poet
17 The King's Anna in 1946
19 Vegas cubes
20 Wright of "Alf"
21 Short-tailed rodent
22 Relinquishes
24 Dungeonesque
25 Headland
26 Lace tips
29 Unshod
33 Illegal gift
34 The Swedish Nightingale
35 Diamond Head's island
36 Bindle stiff
37 Lassoes
38 Night light
39 Higher than
40 Of all time
41 Ship back?
42 Backslid
44 Learned papers
45 Brewer's need
46 Crude person
47 Predicament
50 Sound of a big bell
51 Gore and Capp
54 Large lot
55 The King in 1999
58 Church or movie add-on
59 Flooring piece
60 Pluck
61 Lollapalooza
62 Practice boxing
63 Ermine in a light coat

DOWN

1 Pass over lightly
2 Amazon estuary
3 Old World wild goat
4 Holy woman
5 Lift
6 Move about stealthily
7 Window part
8 __ Arbor, MI
9 Ocean liner employees
10 The King's Anna in 1999
11 Tel __-Jaffa
12 Bad habit
13 Fruity quaffs
18 Puts on
23 Imitate
24 The King's Anna in 1956
25 Chair maker
26 Dislike intensely
27 Stand of trees
28 Published slander
29 Animal with two feet
30 "Them" author
31 Chicago airport
32 Revolves
34 Adores
37 Esteems
41 Former Japanese commanders
43 D.C. old-timer
44 Drama award
46 Leafy shelter
47 Half a Samoan port
48 Laptop image
49 Native American tribe
50 Type of tie
51 '60s hairstyle
52 Half a Samoan skirt
53 Let it stand!
56 Groovy
57 Profit figure

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	A	R	E	N	T	I	N	G		P	R	A	M	S
A	D	E	N	O	I	D	A	L		R	E	D	I	P
R	E	E	D	U	C	A	T	E		O	V	U	L	E
A	L	D	E	N				E	S	T	E	L	L	E
L	A	I	D		D	E	F		P	A	R	T	E	D
L	I	E		P	A	R	A		E	G	E	S	T	S
E	D	S		I	T	I	S		C	O	N			
L	E	T	O	N	E	S	H	A	I	R	D	O	W	N
			R	E	L		I	R	M	A		L	A	O
R	A	C	I	N	E		O	L	E	S		D	T	S
I	M	A	G	E	S		N	O	N		A	N	T	I
P	U	N	I	E	S	T				S	L	O	A	N
E	L	A	N	D		O	V	E	R	L	A	R	G	E
N	E	P	A	L		T	O	R	T	O	I	S	E	S
S	T	E	L	E		S	W	E	E	T	N	E	S	S

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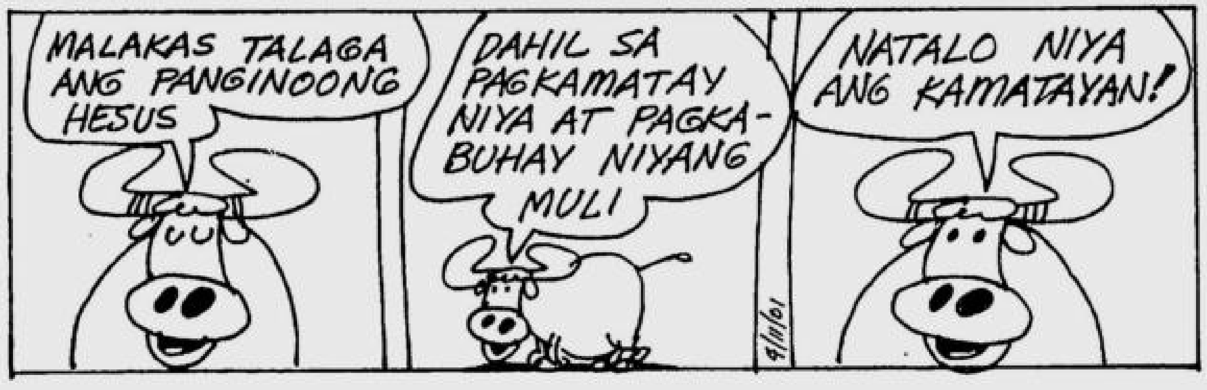
2/26/01

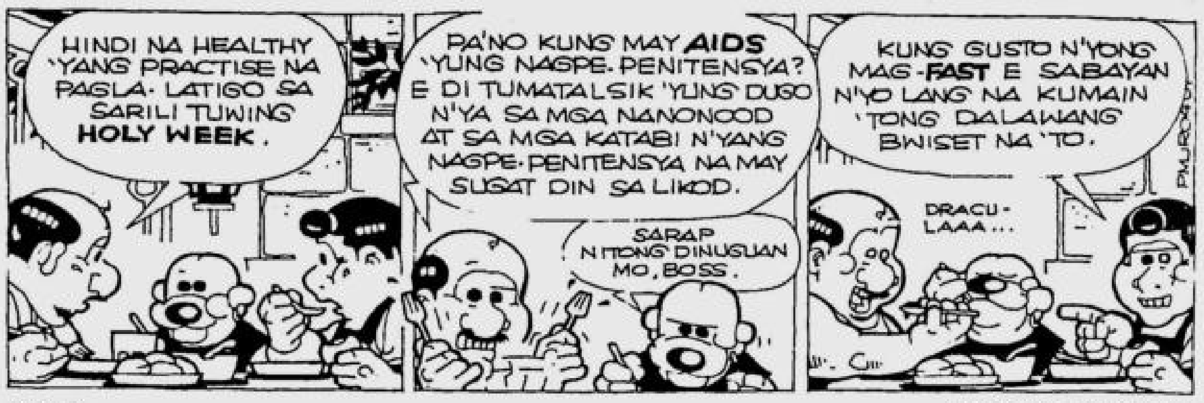
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALAKAS TALAGA ANG PANGINOONG HESUS
DAHIL SA PAGKAMATAY NIYA AT PAGKABUHAY NIYANG MULI
4/11/01
NATALO NIYA ANG KAMATAYAN!

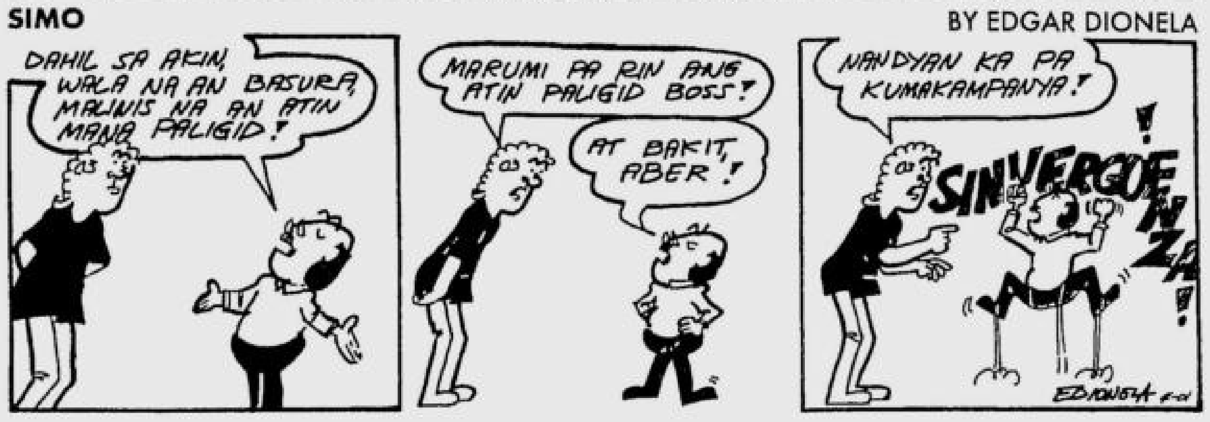
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI NA HEALTHY 'YANG PRACTISE NA PAGLA-LATIGO SA SARILI TUWING HOLY WEEK.
PA'NO KUNG MAY AIDS 'YUNG NAGPE-PENITENSYA? E DI TUMATALSIK 'YUNG DUGO N'YA SA MGA NANONOOD AT SA MGA KATABI N'YANG NAGPE-PENITENSYA NA MAY SUGAT DIN SA LIKOD.
SARAP NITONG DINUGUAN MO, BOSS.
KUNG GUSTO N'YONG MAG-FAST E SABAYAN N'YO LANG NA KUMAIN 'TONG DALAWANG BWISET NA 'TO.
DRACU-LAAA...
PMJR

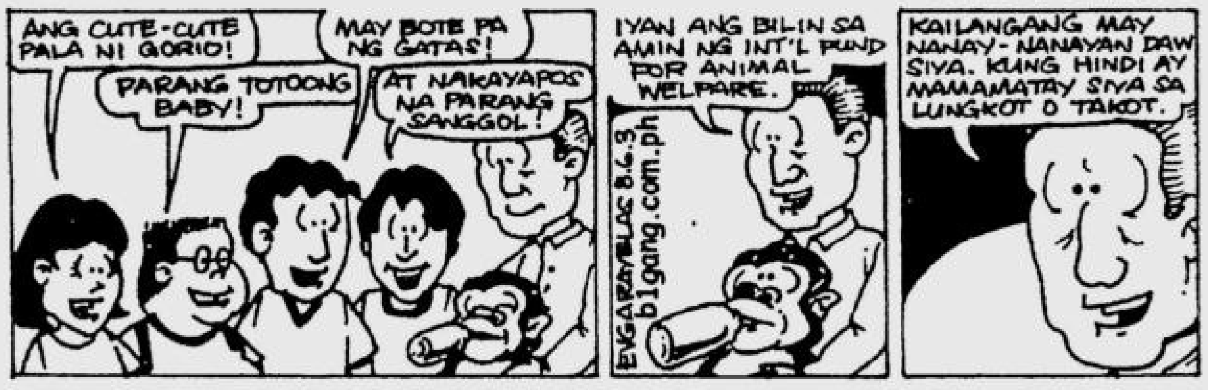
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


DAHIL SA AKIN, WALA NA AN BASURA, MALINIS NA AN ATIN MANA PALIGID!
MARUMI PA RIN ANG ATIN PALIGID BOSS!
AT BAKIT, ABER!
NANDYAN KA PA KUMAKAMPANYA!
SINVERGUENZA!
EDIONELA

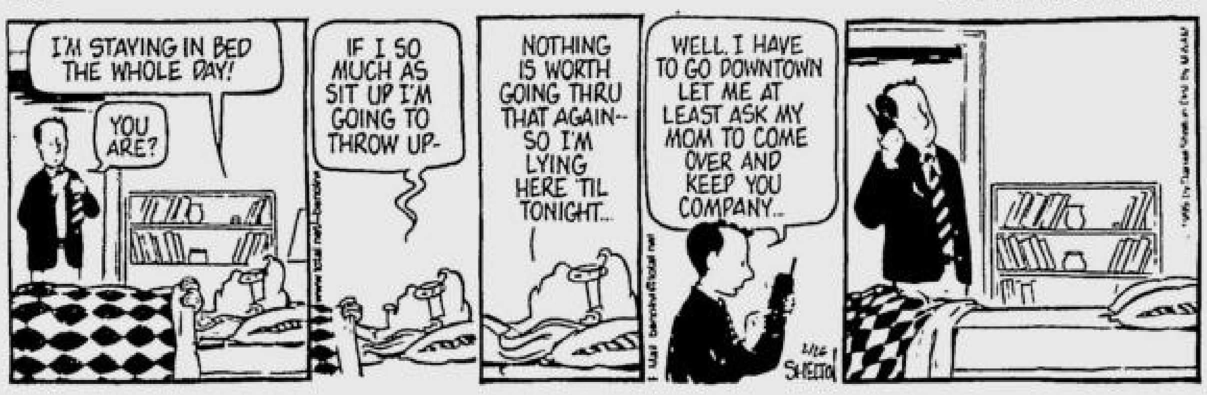
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


ANG CUTE-CUTE PALA NI GORIO!
PARANG TOTOONG BABY!
MAY BOTE PA NG GATAS!
AT NAKAYAPOS NA PARANG SANGGOL!
IYAN ANG BILIN SA AMIN NG INT'L FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE.
EVGARAYBLAC 8.6.3 b1gang.com.ph
KAILANGANG MAY NANAY-NANAYAN DAW SIYA. KUNG HINDI AY MAMAMATAY SIYA SA LUNGKOT O TAKOT.

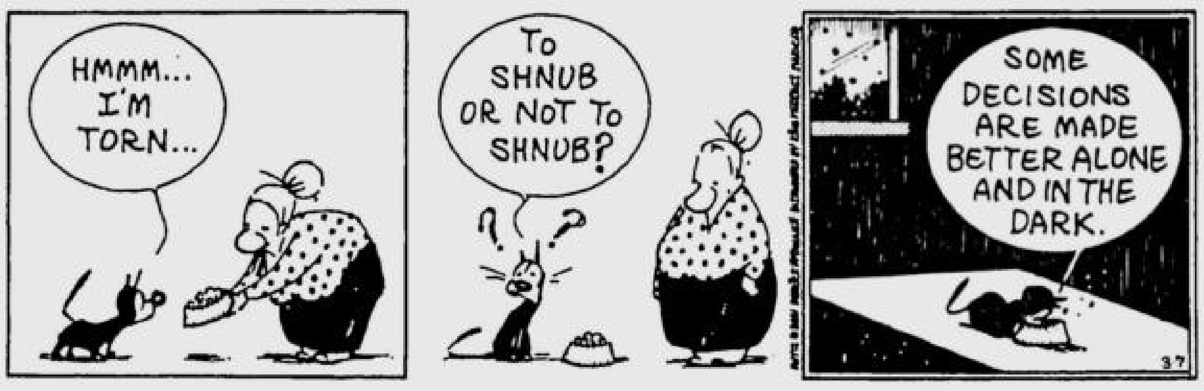
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M STAYING IN BED THE WHOLE DAY!
YOU ARE?
IF I SO MUCH AS SIT UP I'M GOING TO THROW UP-
NOTHING IS WORTH GOING THRU THAT AGAIN-- SO I'M LYING HERE 'TIL TONIGHT..
WELL, I HAVE TO GO DOWNTOWN LET ME AT LEAST ASK MY MOM TO COME OVER AND KEEP YOU COMPANY..
SHELTON

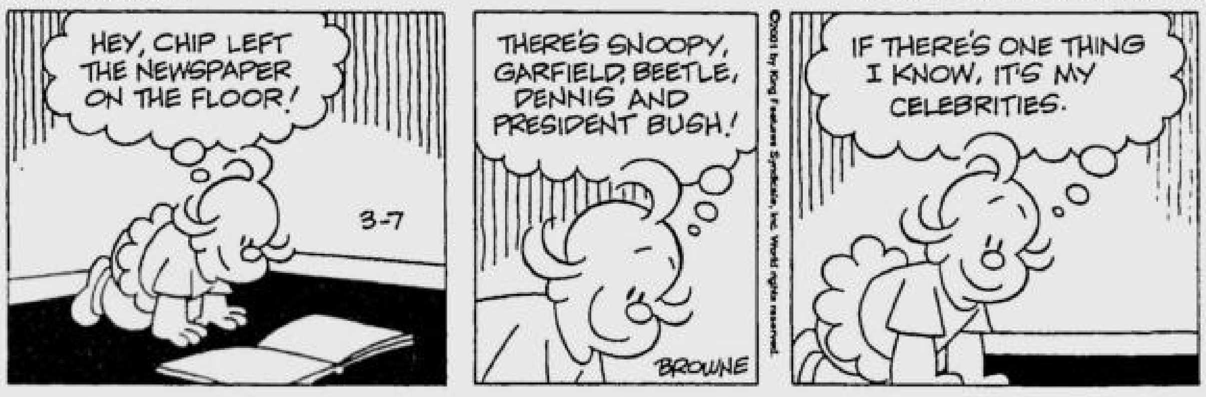
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HMMM... I'M TORN...
TO SHNUB OR NOT TO SHNUB?
SOME DECISIONS ARE MADE BETTER ALONE AND IN THE DARK.
3-7

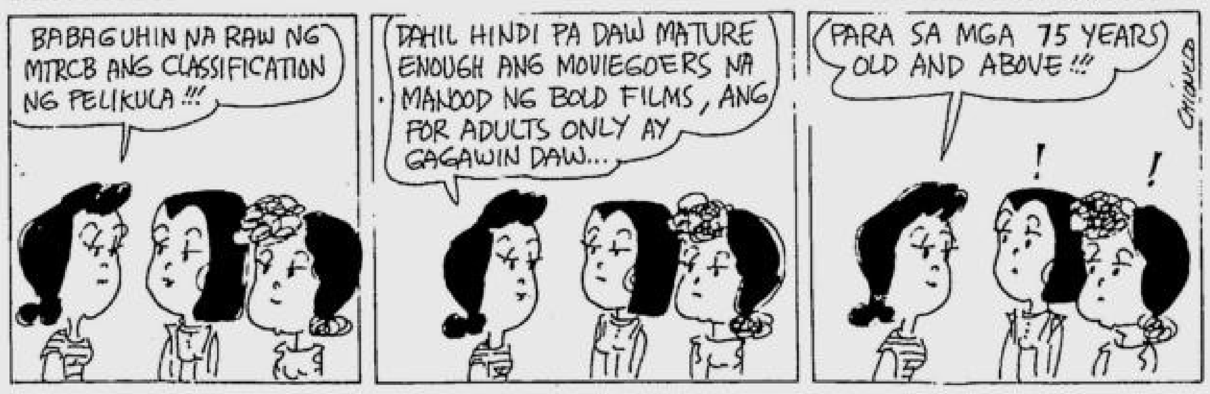
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


HEY, CHIP LEFT THE NEWSPAPER ON THE FLOOR!
3-7
THERE'S SNOOPY, GARFIELD, BEETLE, DENNIS AND PRESIDENT BUSH!
BROWNE
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
IF THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW, IT'S MY CELEBRITIES.

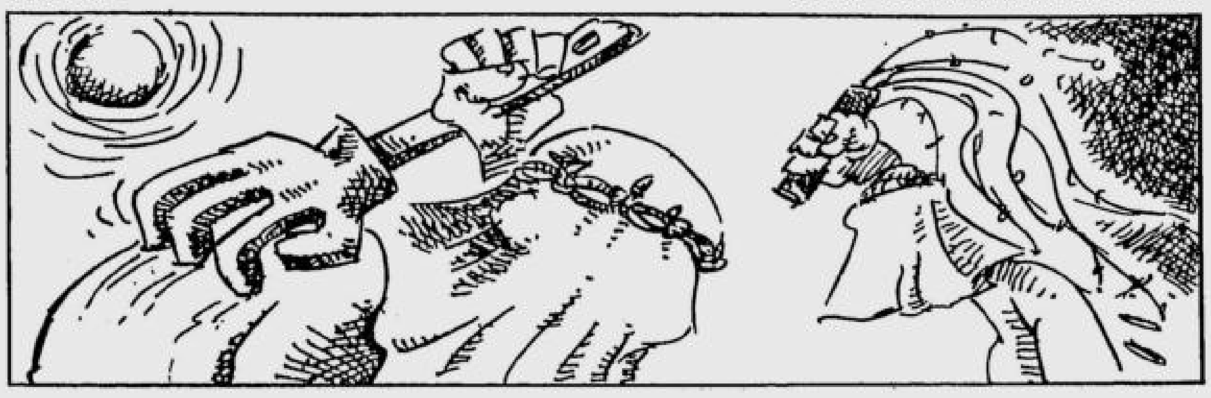
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BABAGUHIN NA RAW NG MTRCB ANG CLASSIFICATION NG PELIKULA!!!
DAHIL HINDI PA DAW MATURE ENOUGH ANG MOVIEGOERS NA MANOOD NG BOLD FILMS, ANG FOR ADULTS ONLY AY GAGAWIN DAW...
PARA SA MGA 75 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE!!!
!
!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Fast foods for a fasting season

By Pam Pastor

2bU! samples this year's fast food Lenten offerings. Read the verdict

'TIS the season not to eat meat (well, almost). Not because of the mad cow disease (although that should be enough to keep your hands off burgers and steaks), but because it's Lent.

This is the time of the year when the cholesterol-loving citizens of this country try to keep their hands off meat—every Friday, at least.

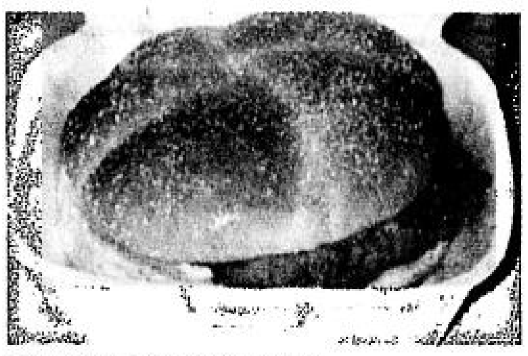
But since most of us spend our waking hours out of the house working our heads off, we can't always rely on our trusty house cook to whip up seafood dishes for us (who wants cold fish in a Tupperware, right?)

Your favorite fast-food restaurants have come up with the brilliant idea of serving special Lenten meals. Whether this is out of the desire to serve or is a marketing ploy (which is more likely), you have to admit it's sheer genius. Practical. Convenient. Sacrifice served in a minute. They're pretty good, too.

Now that's not much of a sacrifice, is it?

Wendy's Shrimp Sandwich—P52

Shrimp patty dabbed with tartar sauce, topped with lettuce, trapped between two slices of grainy bread. This is a Wendy's special I look forward to every year. But my grandma says, "It's a far cry from the shrimp sandwich in my time. Back then, the UP canteen used real shrimps!" Still, I like it. It's actually good. Since I'm not a big fan of mayonnaise and pickles, I wipe it off with a tissue or scrape it off with my spoon (okay, okay, it's disgusting). The patty itself is good. But the bread somehow overpowers its flavor. And their lettuce could be a bit greener.


WENDY'S Shrimp Sandwich

Unless you're just after a light snack, you'd require two orders to hit the spot.

Pizza Hut's Seafood Lasagna—P71.50

This is the most expensive item on the list. I called for delivery one Sunday and decided to sample it with my grandma. A friend decided to do the same in his house and gave me his verdict. My order reached me first. From their Styrofoam boxes, Pizza Hut has graduated to using foil containers for their pasta. Layers of lasagna noodles laden with squids, tiny shrimps, mushrooms, tomato sauce with a crusty cheese top—that's Pizza Hut's Seafood Lasagna. Although it's nothing to rave about, my grandma and I agreed that it was okay. My friend thought otherwise.

"Its terible," he texted.

To annoy him, I texted. "I luv d mussels."

"Wat mussels?"

"D big juicy 1s."

He was too annoyed to reply.

Later, when we talked, he said that it "tasted old." It was okay, I said. Not bad.

"Dude, it was mostly black," he said.

Black? "I saw things that were round. And when you bite them, they're kinda rubber-band chewy. That must have been the squid."

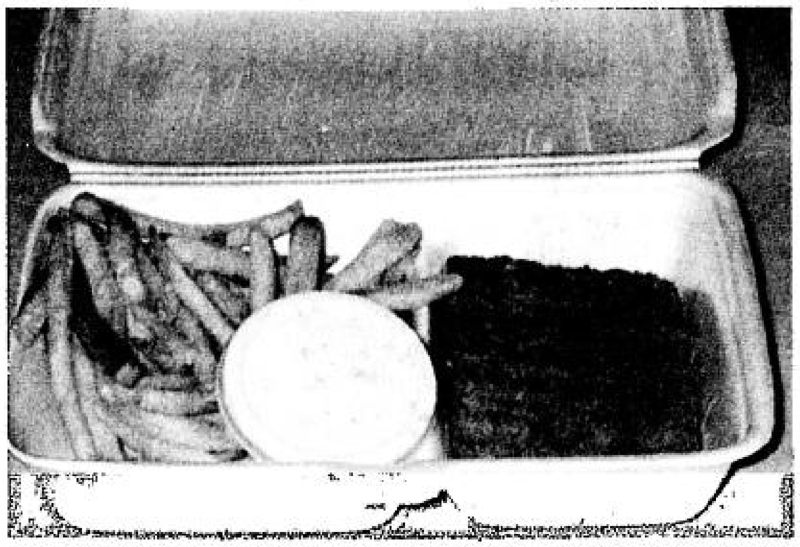
The problem must be with the branch he ordered from (Boni), since he recalls having eaten "old" spaghetti there, too.

The problem, I guess, lies in the consistency of different branches, because while his garlic bread was good, mine was stale.

Give these Lent offers a shot. Sacrifice or not? You decide.

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph

PIZZA Hut's Seafood Lasagna


BURGER King's Fish and Chips

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR

To be you
Filet-O-Fish
P43
P39
NA LANG!
MCDONALD'S Filet-O-Fish

McDonald's Filet-o-Fish—P49

When I was a kid, this was the only way to get me to eat fish (of course, with the tartar sauce again scraped off). But now, for some reason, there are McDonald's branches that serve their fish sandwich only in the mornings and on Fridays. The Shangri-La branch doesn't serve it at all. "Limited products *lang po kami dito sa* Shangri-La *kaya marami kaming* products *na wala*." Uh, okay. McDonald's Filet-o-Fish is fish patty, tartar sauce and cheese in a bun. The patty is tender and the bread is not heavy at all, which makes for a light meal. Best eaten with fries and a root beer. And now, with the strip of coupons they've been giving out, you can get the Filet-o-Fish for only P39. Not bad. Not bad at all.

Jollibee's Fish 'n' Fries—P55

I have to admit. When it first came out, I was hooked. For five straight days, I ate nothing but Fish 'n' Fries—a minimum of two orders a day. Apparently, a lot of people liked it, since the counter was usually flooded with pending orders. The fish is tender and fried crisp, and the fries are, well, they're fries. There are a few complaints, though. The fish is too oily for comfort (so say the health conscious) and the tartar sauce, which is served in a fat pouch, is too sweet ("*Parang* sandwich spread!" one person remarked). And they don't have takeout boxes. If you wish to bring the goodies home, they put two containers on top of each other. So much for packaging.

Burger King's Fish and Chips—P69

I love Burger King's tartar sauce. That I have to say. It's not tart at all—it's almost like Frito-Lay's dips. The fish is flavorful—even the coating isn't bland. The fish comes with a ton of fries and yes, they have Styrofoam boxes for takeout (environmentalists wouldn't be too happy, though). I'm a convert. I'm now a Fish and Chips junkie. But for its price, the serving is too small.

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working on a computer
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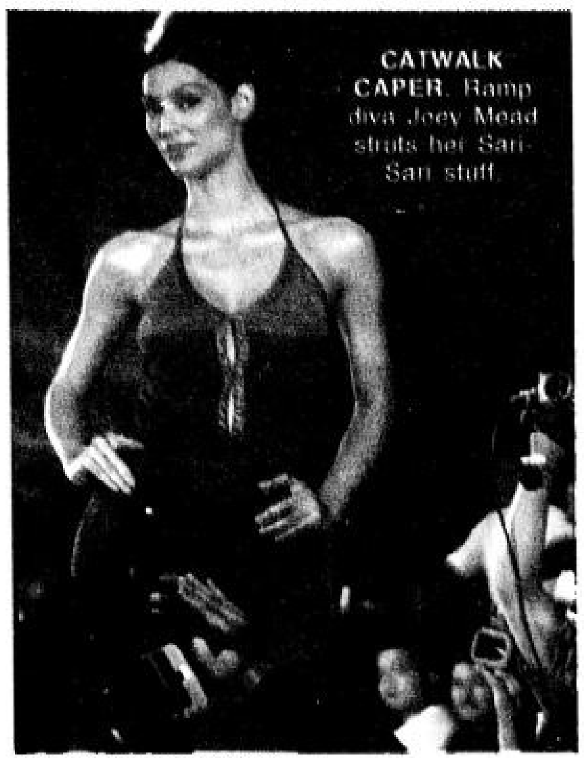
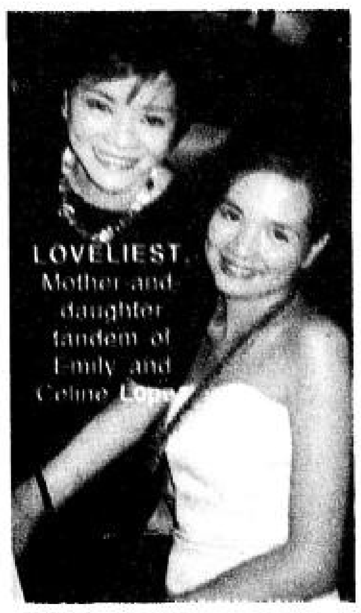


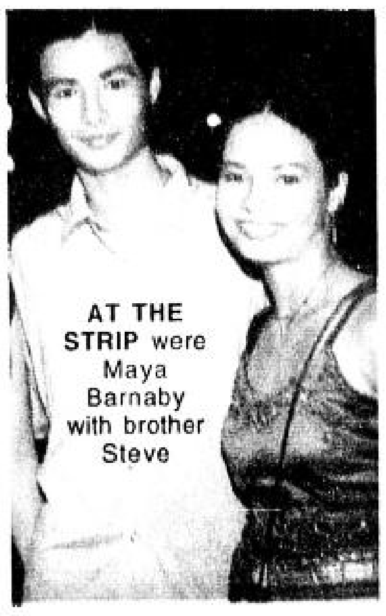
CATWALK CAPER. Ramp diva Joey Mead struts her Sari-Sari stuff.

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN



LOVELIEST. Mother and daughter tandem of Emily and Celine Lope

HUG-A-LUG. Ana Martha Moreno and Jon Jon Rufino

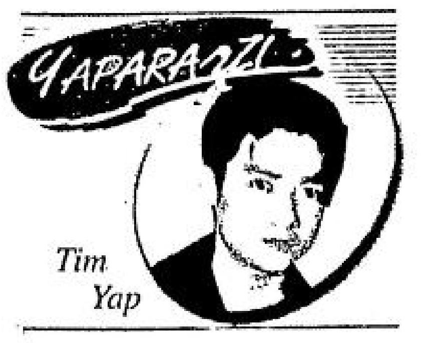


AT THE STRIP were Maya Barnaby with brother Steve

FLUTE! of Christine San Diego, now open in Salcedo. Here with Melissa Chua at Estilo in Rockwell

BORACAY belles Giselle Sityar and Ana Cruz at the Reyno's

Living on the 'fast' lane



Tim Yap

"THERE'S practically a fashion show on the street every night," says **GP Reyes**, Sari-Sari Store marketing man, referring to the Rockwell strip, the city's happening party place at the moment.

The night scene is all about diversity—of different people, varying moods and contrasting fashions. With this in mind, the Sari-Sari group approached Summit's **Lisa Gokongwei**, purveyor of magazines like Preview, Cosmopolitan, FHM, Seventeen, Candy, Good Housekeeping, among other titles, to form a partnership.

Summit's savvy fashion editors—**Pauline Suaco, Pia Rojas, Jaycee Dee** and **Maddy Madrid**—styled the 80-piece Sari-Sari Summer collection composed of Okasyon, their evening wear; Koleksiyon, for corporate types; S2 clubwear, Spunky streetwear and Sari Sari men.

A **Joey Espino** fashion parade followed, with models coming to life straight from Summit magazine's style pages. The ramp stretched from the Seattle's Best Coffee and U-bar outdoor area up to the Power Plant Mall entrance, while hip-hopping habitués watched the show from nearby Via Mare, Struan and Tang's, Cork and Che.

Ramp regulars included **Joey Mead, Phoemela Baranda, Wilma Doesnt** and other girls familiar to Summit subscribers. The editors of each magazine hobnobbed with their guests, a veritable who's who in the glitzbiz and publishing fields, plus Rockwell regulars on a night out.

Despite the glaring heat of the klieg lights and the summer weather, partyphiles stayed on and feasted all night on the strip—which goes from chill on weekdays and crazy on weekends.

Sustaining the scene's interest

Speaking of Rockwell, it really does get jam-packed on weekends. Walking by the strip on a Saturday night reminds me of a full house college canteen, with hipsters from different campuses all doing the "see and be seen" catwalk-with-matching-wave-and-air-kisses type of action.

The guys are wearing the same untucked short sleeves and slim pants combo and the gals, the ubiquitous spaghetti strap and skirt mix. Reminds me of Le Taxi during its heydays, or The Fort (which I hear will have a renaissance this year). Let's just hope it does not suffer the same fate as the French bistro bar or the Taguig party place.

How will they sustain the scene's interest? By taking good care of their customers—making sure that the peace and order situation is in place, giving valued perks for regulars, and providing the best service (a dimsum resto there once spilled fruit tea on my friend, and offered no apology—bad) they can offer.

Last week, I was there with good friend **Vivienne Tan**, who was angered when she saw two bodyguards of a power-tripping guy beat up some boy in the street! The bullying brood was able to escape when the Rockwell security intervened.

Also, be forewarned that the Power Plant's basement parking rates have gone up, escalating to an additional overnight parking charge of P300 (aside from the P25 base fee) if you stay there past 1 a.m.

Dandy 'despedida'

Weeks ago, chic, chic dandy man **Patrick Reyno** hosted a *despedida* at his lavish South Forbes home for one of young Manila's loveliest, **Celine Lopez**, preparing to fly to San Francisco and New York, where she will be taking up design courses at Parsons.

Patrick's garden was set up with Estilo birdcages and Thai-inspired foliage. A sprawling buffet of Southeast Asian delights from Pandan Chicken to Pad Thai noodles and sticky rice with mango (yum, yum) were served, along with wine and champagne, which flowed the whole night.

While the young ones stayed outside, the parents watched indoors. I spotted Patrick's Mom **Yoly** chit-chatting with Celine's Mom, Guimaras Rep. **Emily Relucio-Lopez**, and charming couple **Philip** and **Ching Cruz**.

Friends **Joel Tantoco** and DJs **Bobet Villaluz** and **Manolet Dario** took turns spinning music for the night, which was a gathering of Celine's friends from sassy scenesters to funky fashionistas.

As a last hurrah, Celine and her friends are now in the sunny shores of Boracay (where most everybody is at right now, partying presumably) for NBK's Manomission and the sunset parties of Café Del Mar's Bruno while sipping margaritas and rubbing lotion on each other's backs (and fronts?). Ah, the life!

Beach ball 2001

This week, the Lenten season doesn't stop the city's hot set from party feasting. (Well, at least devote some time to go to church, or pray at the very least—I'm feeling guilty already.)

Tonight at Venezia is the launching of Patron Tequila, tagged as "the world's finest and most elegant tequila!" It's open bar on this most exclusive shot from 9 to 11 p.m., so be there to "taste the magic."

Then, next week, MTV Philippines raises the summer heat with "Blazin' Bold in Boracay!" From April 16 to 22, expect fun in the sun with summer activities from volleyball and billiard contests, tug of war and billiard games, theme parties to face-painting and body-tattooing.

Cocomangas has a "Greek Toga" party on April 16 while games galore and chill out party happen at Pearl of the Pacific. DJ **Manfred Ruiz** or Mumph goes progressive in "Bedrock" on Tues, April 17. Come Wednesday, a "Mad Hat Masquerade" transforms again at Cocomangas, with Pearl of the Pacific again hosting games and chill out surprises.

Next Thursday, ethnic groove Exposure and Tribal band sets the scene for a Hawaiian luau, while a "City of Angels" commences next Friday, a Mr. and Ms. San Miguel 2001 pageant and a Wet and Wild Open! Whew.

We're not done yet—Mojofly performs at the Pearl of the Pacific, followed by an unplugged performance by **Wency Cornejo**, and an all night party! Double whew!

I'd like to close this week's column with a Lenten advice I got via text—"Fast from ill temper, feast on peace. Fast on pride, feast on humility. Fast from selfishness, feast on service. Fast from criticism and feast on praise."

Happy fasting and feasting.

ORANGE oracle on summer sensation Rissa Samson

TEEN TRENDS. Maddy Madrid and Troy Montero

JOYCE Jimenez did the show's voice over

BLACK and white on Miko Palanca

HELLO, Billy Says Ana Roces

BUBBLEGUM whites on Mia Fausto and Maya Calica at the Summit fashion show

TANTALIZING trio Jayvee de Venecia, Wendy Puyat and Tonito Payumo

SALON chill from Salon de Orient's Denise Go and Diether Ocampo

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

"WHATEVER," says Patty Morato

TIMES TWO. Sasa and Tina Montinola

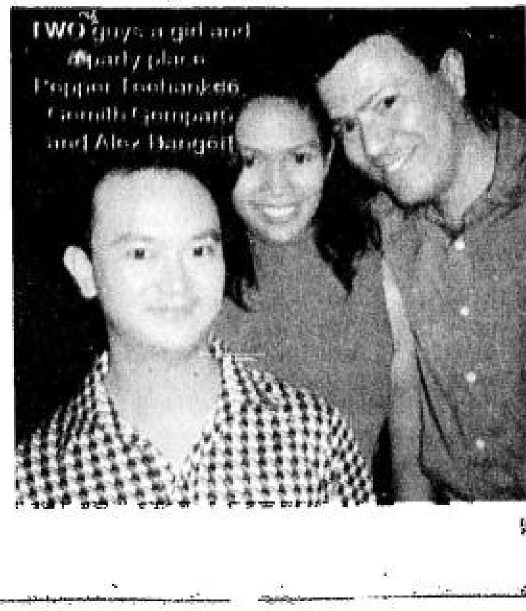
RUFFLED UP. Tina Pamintuan and Enteng Floirendo

BEST BUDS. Patrick Reyno and Trisha Rodriguez

RAJ's DJ Montano

OUR TOWN. Vince and Ana Bitong

PARTY ON. Paul Cunningham and Michelle Loche



TWO guys a girl and a party place. Pepper Teehankee, [illegible] and Alex [illegible]

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LIFESTYLE

FACULTATES ECCLESIASTICAE
Ecclesiastical Faculties

They are destined for greater things. But according to these three seminarians, they're just normal young people. 'Kumakain rin kami sa McDo!' one of them says

At the beck and call of God

BY PAM PASTOR

"Magpapari ka? Sayang ka naman." Twenty-five-year-old Michael "Gelo" Gazzingan, 18-year-old Eldric Paul Peredo and 20-year-old Johnwil Victoriano are tired of hearing this. They are seminarians of the Ecclesiastical Faculties of the University of Santo Tomas. Yes, they want to become priests.

Eldric and Johnwil are students at the Faculty of Philosophy (Eldric is also a staffer of the UST school paper The Varsitarian, where he writes for the Witness, or Religion, section. He has re-applied but has asked to be assigned to the Literary section to give fuller bloom to his literary talent; he writes bizarre stories à la Stephen King and is set to attend the Iligan National Writers Workshop this summer.) Meanwhile, Gelo is a student of

AT THE/ p.D2

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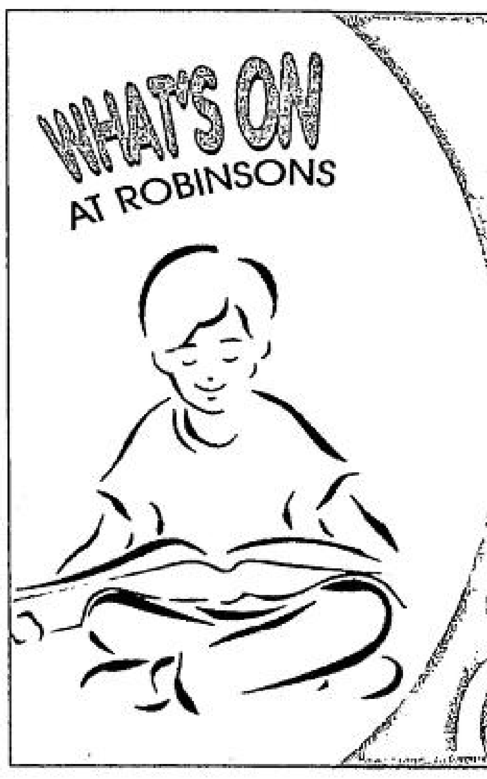
WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

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    - Press 4 for "I love you"
    - Press 5 for "Happy Birthday"
    - Press 6 for "Please come home early"
    - Press 7 for "Please don't forget my bilin! Thanks."
    - Press 8 for "Sorry, I'll be late"
    - Press 9 for "Sorry, I can't make it"
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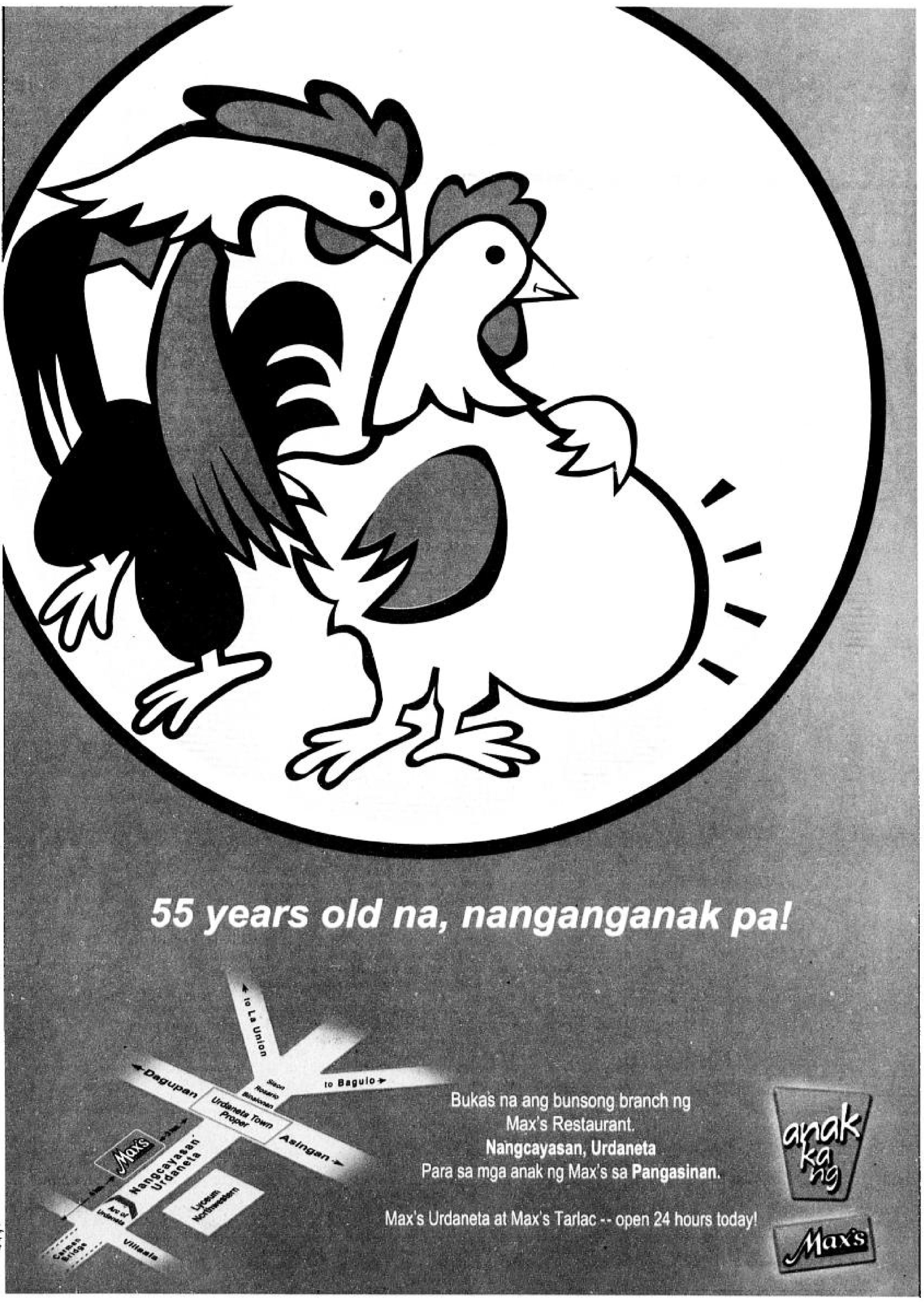

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Nangcayasan, Urdaneta
Para sa mga anak ng Max's sa Pangasinan.

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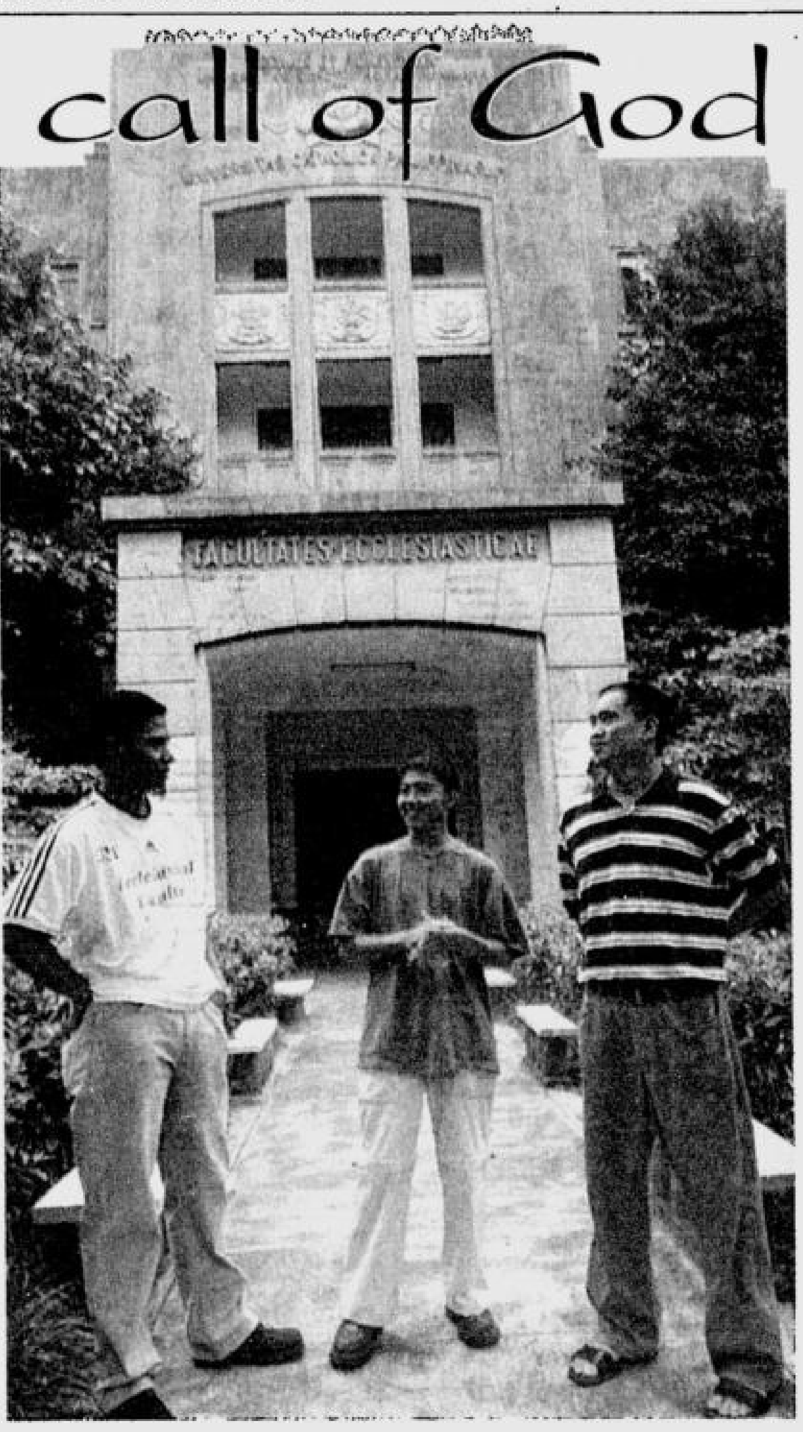
At the beck and call of God



PRIESTS-TO-BE (from left) Edric, John and Gelo

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

(From page D1)

the Faculty of Theology and is incoming president of the seminary senate.

The three spent a few hours with us and allowed us a peek into their seminary lives. That Wednesday afternoon, they gave 2bU! a short tour of the UST Central Seminary (UST really started as a training school for priests when it was established in 1611) before we settled down in what they called Aula Magna ("the big theater") for an interview. This meeting almost did not take place, as Eldric had opposed it at first, thinking that they would be grilled about church issues. No, that definitely wasn't the plan.

Gelo hit the nail on the head when he said, "This is good. *Bihira makarinig galing sa amin.* I hope that through this interview, people will get to know our lives better. Help open their eyes *na tao rin kami.*"

What did you want to become when you were young?

Gelo: To be a priest was never my ambition. My grandfather was a military officer and I used to see his pictures when I was young. I really wanted to become a soldier. Or a doctor. Or a lawyer.

Eldric: I didn't really had any idea that I would later on be in a seminary. I wanted to be a scientist.

Johnwil: I liked playing with water. When I was a kid, I wanted to become a fireman. When I was in high school, I wanted to take up medicine.

How long have you been seminarians?

G: 10 years.

E: Six years.

J: Eight years.

Why did you choose to become seminarians?

G: When I was in elementary, I wanted to study in Manila. In the province, it sounds like you're "somebody" if you studied in Manila. I took exams and I passed them. One day, my aunt brought me to this Guadalupe seminary in Makati. It was summer, so it was hot. I saw a swimming pool and I wanted to take a dip. I thought to myself, "*Siguro maganda dito dahil meron silang* pool." It's kinda weird. So that same day, I told myself that I was gonna study in that seminary. But I found out later on, after I was accepted, that freshmen weren't allowed to use the pool. (laughter) It was a small thing, but I learned to love the seminary.

E: My two older brothers were seminarians. But they went out for college. They were an influence, but not a major one. When I was in sixth grade, a minor seminary in Vigan sent seminarians to my school to encourage people to study there. My friends dared each other to try it. There were eight of us. We took the exams. We all passed, I think. But when June came, there were only two of us there. I learned to love it, although it just started as a dare.

J: When I was about to graduate from elementary, my dad asked me to study in a seminary. Although I had no idea what that was, I said ok. As a kid, I loved traveling. One night, he woke me up at 3 a.m. and told me to go with him to Tuguegarno. I wanted to, since I had never been there. When we were about to reach our destination, I saw a building on top of a hill. My father said, "*Mag-e*-exam *ka d'yan.*" I wasn't prepared, but I did it. Exam, interview and I waited for the results. I didn't take exams in any other schools. I had no idea I would pass. I did. So I ended up there. I was there when I realized *na para 'yun sa mga magpapari*. But I gradually learned to enjoy it. It was good.

So you're decided on becoming priests?

G: It doesn't mean that just because you're inside, you're going to become a priest. The desire is there, but there are a lot of factors, a lot of things to go through and experiences that would determine it.

How did your parents feel about it?

G: They're very supportive. My granduncle is the bishop of our diocese and my granduncle on my father's side is the archbishop of Cagayan. Maybe it runs in the blood.

E: They're happy, especially because my brothers left the seminary. *Bigla silang nagulat* when I told them I wanted to.

J: My dad was the one who wanted it and I gladly accepted their decision. I have no regrets.

Your friends?

G: My friends were really surprised. When we have reunions, they say, "Gelo, *nasa seminaryo ka pa ba? Ba't ka tumatagal dun?*" I guess it's because *magulo ako* in elementary. But now I have (their) respect.

E: The initial reaction was, "*Si* Eldric? *Nag-seminaryo?*" They were surprised, but they accepted it after a few months.

J: They didn't expect it. They always ask if I am decided on becoming a priest. They always expect me to behave in a "saintly" manner. *Napalitan 'yung image ko* when I was in elementary. *Nagkaroon na ng gap* (with my friends). *Nawala na 'yung* closeness.

How many more years before you become priests?

G: Two or three years, it depends on my bishop.

E: *Kung tuloy-tuloy,* seven years.

J: Five years.

What's the best thing about being a seminarian or being in the seminary?

G: Being a seminarian itself. You're not considered a VIP, but you're also not considered ordinary.

E: The special camaraderie and bond that we have in the class. You care about this guy (Gelo starts teasing him), you start caring about their welfare, your classmate is your responsibility. It's surprising. He's from this other place, but you treat each other like brothers.

J: Being yourself. Once you're inside, you discover your identity.

Any negative things?

G: Once people know you're a seminarian, the expectations are so high. They always think that you should be a perfect person. *Parang tinatanggal nila sa 'yo ang pagkatao mo. Nahihirapan ka.* When you're in public, you have to take care of this "identity." You always have to be discreet. *Pa-simple.* That's not being "plastic." (Gelo remains serious while we laugh.)

E: Being a seminarian, you have to take care of your identity. You have to see to it that your actions would never offend people, but not to the point that you let other people direct your life. To a certain extent, you have to realize that what they say may also be right. To a certain extent.

How do you feel about it when they say *na sayang kayo?*

G: *Depende kung sino'ng nagsabi.* (laughter) I don't think it's *sayang*. I chose to serve God. It is something to be proud of.

E: I ask them, why *sayang?* A marriage is a vocation *din naman, eh*. You just chose one vocation over the other. ("*Uy, 'fishing' ka ha!*" Gelo says)

What's your stand on celibacy?

G: There's a very basic principle "You can't serve two masters at the same time." Celibacy is very much needed. Once you get into priesthood, you're not just taking care of a family composed of five people. It's a big family—an entire community. If you are attached to a certain exclusive family, you can never give yourself fully to a community, which is required of a priest—to be with your community anytime.

E: There was a time when priests were allowed to marry. But maybe the Church realized that a priest can only be so effective if he has a family. He cannot divide himself between the family and community. An example is if your wife is sick and then someone needs the last sacrament, you cannot divide your attention. *Kung gusto mong mag-asawa, eh di 'yun.* It's only about choosing. It's just one or the other.

J: If the Catholic Church tolerates this and revolutionizes the image of priests, there will be a new form of Christianity. As a faithful Christian believer, the respect will be lost. This is my faith. This is sacred. I'll try my best to safeguard what I believe in.

What happens if you fall in love?

G: It's the greatest experience of all. We are formed out of love. It's really good—it's the best experience I've ever had. It's not actually *bawal* the way I see it. To be a seminarian or a priest is to be human. Falling in love is part of being human. It's not bad at all—as long as you know your limits. I had some relationships in college. I'm not ashamed of them. I learned a lot of lessons that I never learned when I was in the classroom. But relationships are not encouraged. It's something against you.

E: *Ang mahirap du'n,* it's about choice. We're only human. It happens. The question is, how do we reconcile the fact that we are seminarians and yet we fall in love. *Masarap ma*-in love but it's all about choice. *Nasa iyo na 'yun.*

J: Falling in love is liberating and rewarding. For me, vocation is an endless search. I don't think that it means that if you enter a relationship, you're endangering your vocation. It's a decision for you.

What if you had to choose between your vocation and love?

G: If I really fell in love, I would be very honest to myself. If I really loved this girl, then I couldn't betray myself and my feelings. But it's the same thing for becoming a priest. As of the moment, I'm very firm in my decision. I want to be a priest. But it happens. *Minsan*, days before ordination.

E: I've never had a relationship in my entire life. What if it happens to me? I'm really a loner—I'd choose to be a priest.

J: I'd reflect. I'd evaluate my motives and intentions. *Depende, eh*. It varies every day. There are times when you want to become a priest, there are times when you don't. It fluctuates. I'm planning for a leave now.

E: To add to what John said, sometimes, the strength of your desire to become a priest does fluctuate. In my case, if for example I decided to go out of the seminary, although I'm not saying I will, it won't necessarily be because of a girl. There are a lot of other factors.

G: After college, I took a two-year leave. I did what I wanted. I worked in Makati. Life was fun. There were a lot of things to experience outside the seminary and I enjoyed that. Everything. Every single moment of my life. But there were those moments when it felt superficial. *Masaya ka lang* because you were in a "gimmick," or because you were with beautiful girls. *Pero hanggang du'n lang*. Eventually I came back. The happiness here is very different.

Describe to me your typical day:

G: It's very routinary. You wake up at 5:30, the bell rings then. We prepare ourselves for Mass at 6 a.m. Then we have breakfast. Class starts at 8 and ends at 12. We have our siesta in the afternoon, so we rest until 2:30. We have mid-afternoon prayers, study period 'til 4. From 4-5 we have our recreation. Five to seven is your time for more studying and bathing. Prayertime is from 7-7:30. Dinner is from 7:30-8. Then 8-8:45 is recreation again and 8:45-9 is our night prayers. Then 9-10:30 is study period. You should be in bed by 10:30.

What do you mean by recreation?

E: It's leisure time. You can play basketball or indoor games. Or you can take a walk. We can watch TV.

Do you have your own rooms?

J: Yes. That's the good thing about this seminary.

What do you have in your rooms? Do you have radios?

G: Yes, you're allowed. But you have to inform the rector. *Ang* TV *bawal.* Luxurious things are *bawal.*

What's life like here? Are they strict? I can see that you have cell phones. I think that's not allowed in other seminaries.

G: We are allowed not out of luxury but because it's a need. In the university, some colleges need us for a talk or a recollection and it's easiest to get in touch with us through our cell phones.

J: And that's also for our parents. *Para may* access *sila sa anak nila.*

What makes you different from other young people?

J: We're blessed, I guess. If you're going to compare us to people outside, the seminary offers us a schedule. We don't have anything to be worried about. *Sa labas ang dami mong iniisip.*

E: Thanks to the formation, modesty aside, seminarians know how to act around people. We know how to limit our actions.

G: Basically how we live our life. The lifestyle is very different. *Sa labas palaging biglaan.* Here, everything is systematic. From the time we wake up to the time we go to bed. We've developed in us the sense of being logical and organized.

E: But when you think about it, it's hard to pinpoint what makes us different. We're normal people.

G: *Kumakain din kami ng* McDo! (laughter)

E: When you meet new people, *bigla nilang sasabihin, "Seminarista ka ba?"*

G: Yes, there are cases like that. *Minsan naglalakad kami, sasabihin,* "Hey, brother, *bili na kayo dito.*" Especially in the province. They say it's tangible *daw.*

E: It's in the people who see us also.

Sometimes, it's also the way you talk.

J: *Ay, du'n ako napapansin.*

The way you talk and *'yung tono.*

G: *Ano'ng tono?*

E: *Siguro dahil probinsyano kami.*

G: *'Yung punto?*

Hindi. Do you get to go out?

G: Thursdays and Sundays.

J: Outing day! *Puwedeng personal na lakad* or *grupo-grupo.*

If you had one day to yourself, what would you do?

G: I'd want to spend it with my parents. Once I'm a priest, I'll have a hard time spending time with my family because I'll have to spend time with my community.

E: I don't talk to my father that much. If I were to be given a day, I'd spend it with him. We'd talk.

J: It's not that I'm not close to my parents, but I'd want to spend time with my sisters. I have three sisters. I'm the only guy, the second child. *'Yung* time *na pag*-stay *ko sa* seminary *ninakaw nun 'yung* time *ko sa mga kapatid ko. Lalu na 'yung dalawang mas bata sa akin. Hindi nila naramdaman 'yung pagiging kuya ko.* I want to fulfill my duties to them.

What is your passion?

G: Playing basketball. I love cooking. I cook a lot—dishes from the north. When we have parties here, I cook for them, for the whole class. I feel happy when they like what I cooked. I love to watch movies too—decent movies. And long drives.

E: I love playing "Diablo" and movies. I sing and I play the guitar.

J: Movies and strategy games. I like reading magazines—Time, Asiaweek.

What do you like doing during your spare time?

G: I play the guitar, read, sleep. I like trading stories with my friends.

E: I surf the Net.

J: *Kumain, matulog, manood ng* TV. *Gusto ko i*-develop *'yung magluto eh, lalu na ng* pastries.

G: Spaghetti.

E: Ilocano cuisine! Pinakbet.

J: White beans. Bituelas. Dinuguang Ilocano. *Ayoko 'yung may sabaw.*

What are your favorite songs?

G: "Cruisin'," "Got to Believe in Magic" and "Hayaan"—it's a religious song.

E: *Nagbabago-bago 'yan, eh.* But now I like "Best I Ever Had" by Vertical Horizon.

J: *Mapili ako sa kanta, eh.* I like alternative, pop, rock, jazz. I like "Love Me For What I Am." *Maganda 'yung* lyrics, *eh.*

Movies?

G: It depends on my mood. When I'm sad, I like to watch comedy films. I liked "Naked Gun." I liked "Superman." *Hanggang ngayon pinapanood ko pa 'yun.* I liked "Crouching Tiger." I also like horor movies.

E: Right now, I like "Meet the Parents." *'Yung* comedy *na nasa* dialogue, *hindi* slapstick. I liked "Sleepy Hollow," "Silence of the Lambs," "Hannibal."

J: *Ayoko ng* Tagalog movies. I like epic movies, suspense. I like "Saving Private Ryan," "Braveheart," "Legends of the Fall." *Sa* suspense, the best *talaga 'yung* "Bram Stoker's Dracula." *Maganda 'yung* epics. Legendary.

G: *Maganda 'yung* "Quills."

J: Yeah, *maganda 'yung* dialogue.

What's the first thing you do when you wake up?

G: Aside from praying, because that's natural, I brush my teeth. I brush my teeth up to eight times a day.

E: Before all that, I fix my bed.

J: Depends on my mood. But the first thing I do is look at the clock. I check how many minutes I have left for sleeping.

What's the last thing you do before you sleep?

G: Brush my teeth (laughter).

E: Aside from hygienic stuff, I pray before I sleep.

J: *'Pag may* time *pa*, I wash my face.

What are your plans for the future?

G: To become a holy priest, a good example. A priest who's always available.

E: To be honest with you, I don't plan that far. If you ask me what I will do tomorrow, I can tell you. I can plan for a day, but not for the future.

J: I'm planning for a leave. I'm gonna work. Then I'll decide if I'll continue it or not.

What's your greatest dream?

G: To serve my diocese and its faithful the best way I can.

E: To be an effective priest.

J: If I continue, I want to become a bishop. If not, I like being with a lot of people. I'd probably put up a place where people could gather and have fun.

Are you guys good friends?

G: Yes. John is my *kabayan.* We all come from the north. We speak the same dialect, Ilocano.

Describe the other two.

G: Eldric is a very silent person. He rarely speaks. But when he does, you should listen. John is a small guy, but he has a very big heart. I spend a lot of special moments with him—moments that need to be treasured.

E: You'd think that Gelo is happy-go-lucky but he's very active. He does everything, does his duties. And he cooks great Ilocano food. I only got to know John this year. He's nice to be with. He also plays "Diablo." He thinks a lot and he speaks up.

J: Gelo is wholesome. *Siya 'yung* type *ng tao na madaling lapitan. Gusto ko 'yun sa tao. Marunong makitungo.* Very systematic, very mature. *Nasasayahan ako kay* Eldric. He has a lot of qualities. *Matalino siya.* He's humble. And he's quiet, although *marunong siyang makipagbiruan.* But *minsan mahina ang loob niya.* He's not a fighter.

Describe yourself in one word.

G: Cool.

E: Silent.

J: *Ma-prinsipyo.*

What are your plans for Holy Week?

G: Serve in the parish.

E: Assist my parish priest.

J: I'll be with my family. And I need to prepare my things before I leave.

G: *At kumain ng binnalay na maraming laro.* It's a delicacy from the north *na masarap lang 'pag* Holy Week.

Do you have a message for young people?

G: The world has a lot of things to offer. Everything is a matter of choice. The decisions you make will make a difference. So be sure to hold on to them and exhaust everything to have that best choice.

E: I think it's high time for us young people not only to pay attention to ourselves and our own enjoyment. It's inevitable that we will inherit the world. We should prepare ourselves for that.

J: Be yourself, but don't be too radical. Try to find your real self. Discover your identity. Life is not about living, it's about letting go.

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph

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Where and how will you spend your Holy Week?

AT CANDY'S anniversary party last March 31 at the NBC Tent, young people dropped by the 2bU! booth to answer this week's survey.

Is the Lenten soul still alive in the youth? Read on and find out.

Some will go to the beach to frolic or abroad to shop. But majority will get into the Lenten mood of fasting and praying

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I will go home to our province to visit my family and relatives. I haven't been there since my freshman year in college.—**Christian**

I will go to Iloilo. I miss my grandparents and my relatives. I think it's the perfect place for me to think and reflect.—**Francis, San Beda College**

Nowhere! I will be staying here at Manila to finish my OJT (on-the-job training).—**Contante, San Beda College**

I'll go to Pangasinan where I can renew my faith.—**Ubermensch**

I will go to Antipolo this Holy Week. It's a week-long camp-retreat. I will be with my friends. We will go swimming and rappeling. I will revive my spiritual life.—**Ahngeline Ma. DLSU**

I will go to Boracay to free myself from work.—**Amethyst, UP**

I'll be in Bulacan. We'll celebrate Holy Week the traditional way. Processions, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and the *pasyon*, which we do on Monday and Thursday.—**Kaice, UP**

I will go to Boracay because it's nice there.—**Karistyn Cruz**

I want to visit Bethlehem to become more holy and to improve my relationship with God. I also want to learn more about the way we were and how Jesus and his disciples lived their lives when they were alive.—**Patricia Jacinto**

I'll visit my relatives in the province and bond with my cousins whom I rarely see. But before that, I have to finish my school requirements.—**Gay Domingo**

I just want to stay in Malate forever!—**Pamela**

I will go to Ilocos with my relatives and join the locals in doing the rituals.—**Care Aquino**

I'll stay at home and get a lot of sleep because that's the only week I don't have badminton training.—**Athena Alvarez**

I'm going to Cebu to stay in a resort.—**Lauren Lim**

I'm going to Cavite to see all my friends, family and pets.—**Sarah Janelle Nunez**

I'll lock myself in my room and reflect. No gimmick.—**8stops7**

I'll be at home, working.—**M. Venzon**

I'll be busy with my summer job or at home praying.—**Liezel**

Just stay home with my family. Reflect and pray.—**Charmaine**

I'll be writing a journal since I'll be going to the special retreat prepared by my friends from Singles for Christ.—**Abby I.**

I'll be at home. I'll go to Mass and reflect.—**Alfred**

I'll be as far away as I can from the elections and politics of Manila and be as close to God and serenity as I can be in Pagudpud.—**Shaan Bermudez**

At home, sitting quietly, watching TV.—**Meggie Venzon**

At home, spending time with my son and the whole family.—**Grace**

As far away as my car could take me, as high as my plane would carry me and as deep as my ship could bring me.—**Ryan Padua**

I'll go out of town with my family. We are going to rest and have fun there to forget the pressures of the city. We'll spend time together so we can be more united.—**Cheryll Garcia**

I might go to church to hear Mass with my family, then proceed to Tagaytay and reflect on all the blessings God has given me and my loved ones.—**Giogee B.**

I will be going to the province to eat a lot and drink a lot and sleep a lot.—**Richard Robles**

I will stay at home to clean my room and prepare for medical school. —**Isay, 20**

I might go to Palawan. I heard it's a beautiful place, far from the typical beach resorts.—**Anne Rose, 17**

I'll go to the province and *magtika* (perform acts of penance).—**Anne**

I'll be at the beach. I've always loved the ocean.—**Vicki**

I'll go to Laguna with my family.—**Jo**

I'll go to Bangkok to shop for college clothes.—**Jacque**

This Holy Week, I'll stay home with my family. We will do the traditional *visita Iglesia* and pray "The Way of the Cross." I want to spend the Holy Week thinking about God and making reflections about my life. *'Yun lang*. We are not going out of town because it's not *naman* the right time to have fun. *Siguro* after *na lang*.—**Papat Aquino, 20, DLSU**

I'll spend the Holy Week with my family and loved ones. Also, the whole family will celebrate the Lenten season with a lot of reflection.—**Renren Ritualo, DLSU Green Archers and Welcoat Paintmasters (PBL)**

Hopefully Amanpulo in Palawan. But since we have [basketball] practice this Holy Week [except for Holy Thursday and Good Friday], then I guess this is all wishful thinking. So I guess, I'll just stay home.—**Ronald Cuan, Osaka Iridology (PBL)**

I'm going to Boracay with Margarita, my baby, because I want to make up for the things I haven't done for her. Just her and me!—**Martin Romero, FEU**

One Easter, two perspectives

By Chiquit M. Torrente
2bU! Correspondent

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THE PHILIPPINES is a predominantly Catholic country, and this is most evident during Lent. On Good Friday, there is the obligatory no-meat diet. And during the whole season, one must also make small sacrifices or "penance." I studied (elementary and high school) at a Catholic girls' school run by nuns, and that meant tuna for lunch on Lenten Fridays, and no more after-class ice cream bar. But it also meant that the last day of school depended upon when Holy Week would fall. If it was early, we would have an early summer vacation.

During Holy Week, all roads lead to Baguio, or to whichever province the rest of the clan lives, to get away from the heat of the summer solstice. Traveling by road on Good Friday, one usually sees men flogging themselves along the road, near some small church or town hall, or in front of their houses. Occasionally, one also sees a man reenacting Jesus' carrying of the cross. As far back as the Spanish colonization, Filipinos have been reenacting Jesus' crucifixion, death and resurrection. In the provinces, people still practice nailing a person at noon, and taking him or her (yes, there are women, too) down at 3 p.m. Black Saturday means the reading of the *pasyon* (Passion of Christ), usually done by elderly matrons in a wailing voice. And Easter Sunday starts at sunrise with the Salubong, a procession wherein the risen Christ is met by His mother and the Apostles are all over town.

My family is Protestant so I wasn't restricted by the tuna lunches and ice cream sacrifices required in school. To me, the rituals in the provinces during Holy Week are a form of entertainment. I did not understand then why they believed that undergoing the sacrifices Christ went through would grant them forgiveness and salvation. After all, His sacrifice is the essence of our salvation, and it is His grace that allows us to accept this salvation without us having to sacrifice, too. Most importantly, I did not appreciate the putting of ash on one's forehead that signals the start of the Lenten season.

I loved growing up in a Protestant church. Now I look forward to Palm Sunday, an occasion for us to sing joyfully in the sanctuary as we wave palm branches. I look forward to Holy Week as we remember the Last Supper by sharing in the Agape Meal of soup, fruit and bread, much like what Jesus and His apostles shared. I look forward to the noon meditation of The Seven Last Words on Good Friday, and to Easter Sunday for the sunrise service at the American Cemetery, where the view of the rising sun is so picturesque. I look forward to all these because they give me insights to what Easter is about.

As a Protestant growing up in a Catholic school (in a Catholic country), I haven't been confused about my faith (although I did have a teacher who tried—but that is a different story). However, I couldn't reconcile that these two very different ways of looking at Holy Week were really just about the same thing—Christ's death and resurrection.

While studying at UP, I somehow miss the ash, the sacrifice of giving up my ice cream bar, the tuna lunches on Fridays. I miss the comfort that such traditions and rituals brings, when now that I'm not forced to participate. Perhaps because I have grown to understand their symbolism, and because there are no nuns to force them on me.

Somehow I have come to believe that there was good sense in them, although I still believe they are unnecessary. They are symbols and reminders of Christ's sacrifice, and they play a major role in my understanding of what Lent and Easter really are. The small sacrifice I was forced to make then has helped me understand the big sacrifice Christ made. And this, together with the Protestant Lenten practices that I relish, makes Easter more meaningful.

E-mail the author at chiquit@edsamail.com.ph

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2. For every ₱500 single payment using his Metrobank E.T. card, an eligible depositor will earn a computer-generated raffle number
3. RAFFLE DRAWS

a. MONTHLY DRAW	PAYMENT PERIOD	PRIZES	NO. OF WINNERS DEPOSITOR	NO. OF WINNERS CASHIER
April 20, 2001	March 15 - April 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
May 25, 2001	April 15 - May 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
June 22, 2001	May 15 - June 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
July 20, 2001	June 15 - July 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
August 24, 2001	July 15 - August 15, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
b. GRAND DRAW August 24, 2001	March 15 - August 15, 2001	₱10,000	15	15

c. VENUE: Metrobank Head Office, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Time: 3:00 pm

4. Thirty (30) winning numbers will be drawn in the monthly raffle and fifteen (15) will be drawn in the Grand Draw.
5. Each winning number will have a corresponding winning cashier who will win the same prize as the depositor's.
6. Cash prizes will be credited to the depositor's account, winning cashiers will be issued manager's checks.
7. A participant can win only once in each draw.
8. Winning and non-winning raffle numbers are disqualified for the succeeding monthly draws but will be included in the Grand Draw
9. Winning depositors can join again in the succeeding monthly draws (including the Grand Draw).
10. Winners will be notified via registered mail.
11. The winning cashier must present the notice and any valid ID within 60 days from the receipt of the registered notice. The prize can be claimed at:

    Metrobank Product Management Dept. 11th Floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City (for Metro Manila winners) or at the Metrobank branch specified in the registered notice (for provincial winners).
12. Promo period: March 15 - August 15, 2001.
13. Employees of Metrobank, its advertising agency, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join the promo.
14. The decision of the promo organizers, in concurrence with the DTI, is final.

METROBANK E.T.
Pay cash without the hassles of carrying cash.

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0097 Series of 2001

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Sacrifices you can make this Holy Week

By Jules Alcantara

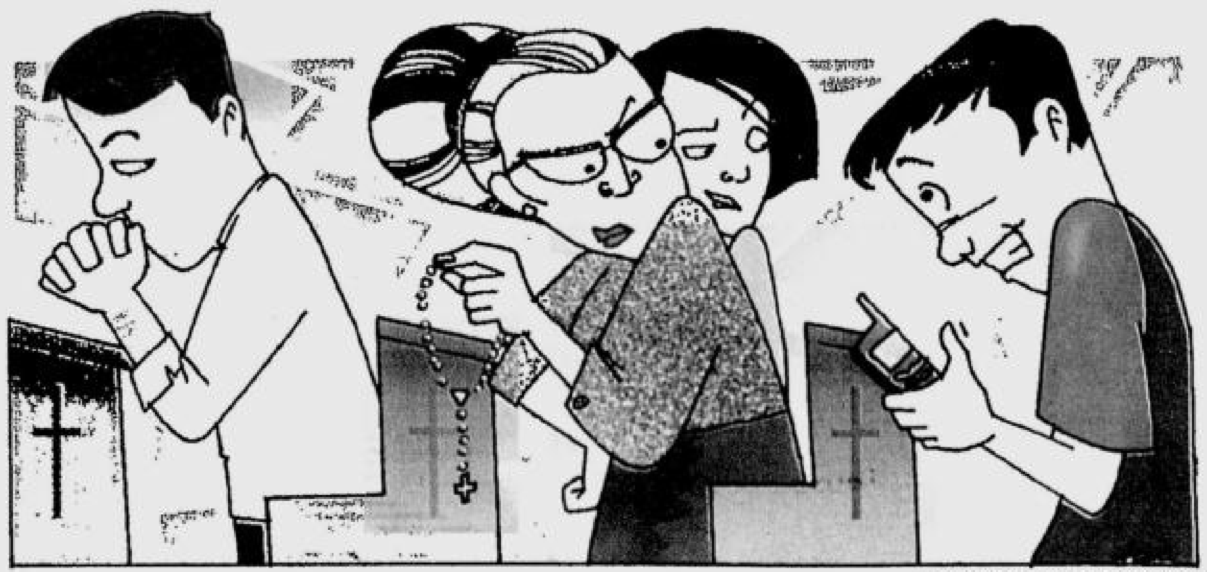


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

FOR MANY of us, the concept of sacrifice is not just a familiar concept. It is a way of life.

Every single day, we make a sacrifice or to use a less "heavy" word, we compromise, in order to make life less complicated. For some, sacrifice means forgoing bits of luxury so you can help your parents in the household expenditures. It can even mean postponing your collegiate studies so your younger sibling can finish high school. Or the end of a budding romance between two young individuals in order not to hurt those that surround them (sniff, sniff).

Sacrifice does not even have to be a life-saving or life-changing act. It can be a simple one as taking the bus instead of the cab or stifling the urge to buy that fantastic blouse at Mango in order to save some money. Or you can avoid throwing nasty stares at people who cut you in the road or control yourself from having tantrums in the middle of Manila's horrible traffic. And sometimes, sacrifice means you omit the usual invectives and expletives from your vocabulary, especially in this searing summer heat.

The concept of sacrifice takes on a special meaning this Holy Week as we remember the ultimate sacrifice the Supreme Being did in order to save us. Mind you, the weight of the sacrifices we make collectively as His creatures will never ever match the one supreme sacrifice that He made for us. (You can raise your eyebrows or send a tersely worded reaction to such statement, but there is absolutely nothing that can ever negate **the** act of the Supreme Being.)

But just the same, this should not prevent us from making our own bit of sacrifice, if only for the duration of the Lenten season. If flagellation (or literally getting crucified) is not part of your agenda, then perhaps the following are excellent suggestions you can adopt for the season. And remember, sacrifice does not have to be anything grandiose. It is giving up something we love or wont to do or dousing off the urge to partake of those sinful desserts your Mom prepared for this long holiday.

Fast. Spend at least one day of the Holy Week in fasting. Not because you want to lose another 5 pounds or start a starvation diet. Do this as your form of sacrifice. Try to see if you can subsist on bread and water alone for 24 hours.

Do not (over)sleep. For most people, Holy Week is a time to catch up on those zzzzzz's. Sleep or oversleeping is a luxury we indulge in, especially during this season. So why don't you make a conscious decision to avoid oversleeping? Maybe to some this is such a small and inconsequential form of sacrifice. But believe me when I say that for those who love to indulge in deep and long slumber (like yours truly), then the act of just getting out of bed is already a torturous effort. Even worse is getting only seven hours of sleep. And a welcome plus—try not to be a grouch (which usually happens when you lack sleep).

Cyber cutback. If surfing the Net has become a daily habit, then give your PC a rest this season. Leave the cyber world for just a little while and reacquaint yourself with the simpler and more real things in life.

If you really can't live without your daily fix of Inq7.net or cnn.com, then at least make the conscious effort to skip your favorite porno site. Stop yourself from chatting and picking up strangers in the usual chat channels. And if your day is not complete without reading the latest thread in Pinoy exchange, then at the very least refrain yourself from arguing with some other PEXer or partaking of the school/team/individual bashing that sometimes happens in Pinoye xchange.

Banish "Curse the *trapos*" or "Damn Erap" thoughts. Let's be kind to abominable creatures. Even for just three days.

Skip desserts or slabs of juicy steaks. Whoever started the tradition of not eating meat on a Friday was on to a good thing. Seriously. It does take humongous effort not to eat your favorite beefsteak, chocolates (like Reese's Bits, Pam) or ice cream or cake. And if you suddenly have a moment of weakness, just remind yourself this will only last three days, max.

Trash the texting habit temporarily. This could very well be the ultimate sacrifice for a nation of text addicts. For crying out loud, put the phone down or at least put it on silent mode. Keep your mobile phone out of sight if you can. Ultimately, this can do wonders for your credit/phone bill.

Keep those hormones in check. Come on, let's face it. Raging hormones (of all ages) abound. Denying it is sheer hypocrisy which, by the way, is another no-no this season. So I'll skip the roundabout and just say this: Abstain from sex this season.

Skip girl/guy scoping. Whether you are on a beach or a country club or even in church.

Swallow your ego and sacrifice your pride. The season is the best time to make that call or send an e-mail to a friend with whom you have had a misunderstanding. Let the Holy Week heat thaw out the cold war between you and your mom/dad/sibling.

Detox your system. Stop yourself from lighting a cigarette or downing alcohol or worse, taking drugs. The preceding statement is not meant to cast stones—your life is your business—but it's merely a suggestion that you give your system a rest this Lent. Even Edsa is free from toxic substances since it is practically a ghost town during the season.

Skip the holier-than-thou attitude for once and accept your humanity. Ruminate and reflect on intended (and unintended) transgressions in the past (and in the offing). Easier said than done, right? But at least, we can try.

Respect traditions whether you believe in them or not.

Make that annual sojourn to church. To some, this may be a sacrifice. Prayers can be tedious and repetitive. There are lots of people everywhere and the heat is at its all-time high during the days of Lent.

But, hey, someone greater than all of us loved us unconditionally that He died to save us. This is the least we can do, right?

Easter fun at Festival Supermall

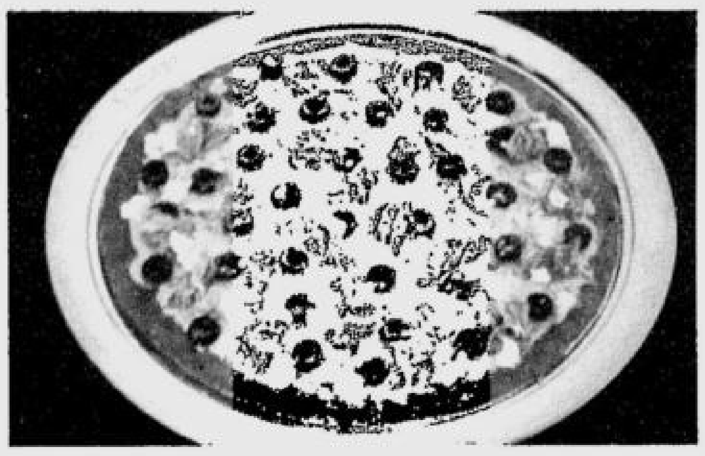
IT will certainly be a whole day of fun and excitement, especially for kids on April 15, Easter Sunday, at the Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang.

Children ages 5-12 can join the Pixie Forest Easter Egg Painting Workshop at the third level of the mall for free. All in all, there will be four batches, the first one starting at 11 a.m.-12 nn. These will be followed by three more sessions from 1:30-2:30, 3-4 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Those who are interested may register on April 15, 11 a.m., at the Amusement Center Office or on Easter Sunday itself from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. right at the registration desk of the Pixie Mini Stage Area. Each child must present a proof of purchase of the sheet of 10 ride tickets from the Festival Amusement Center upon registration. Only 25 children will be accommodated per session.

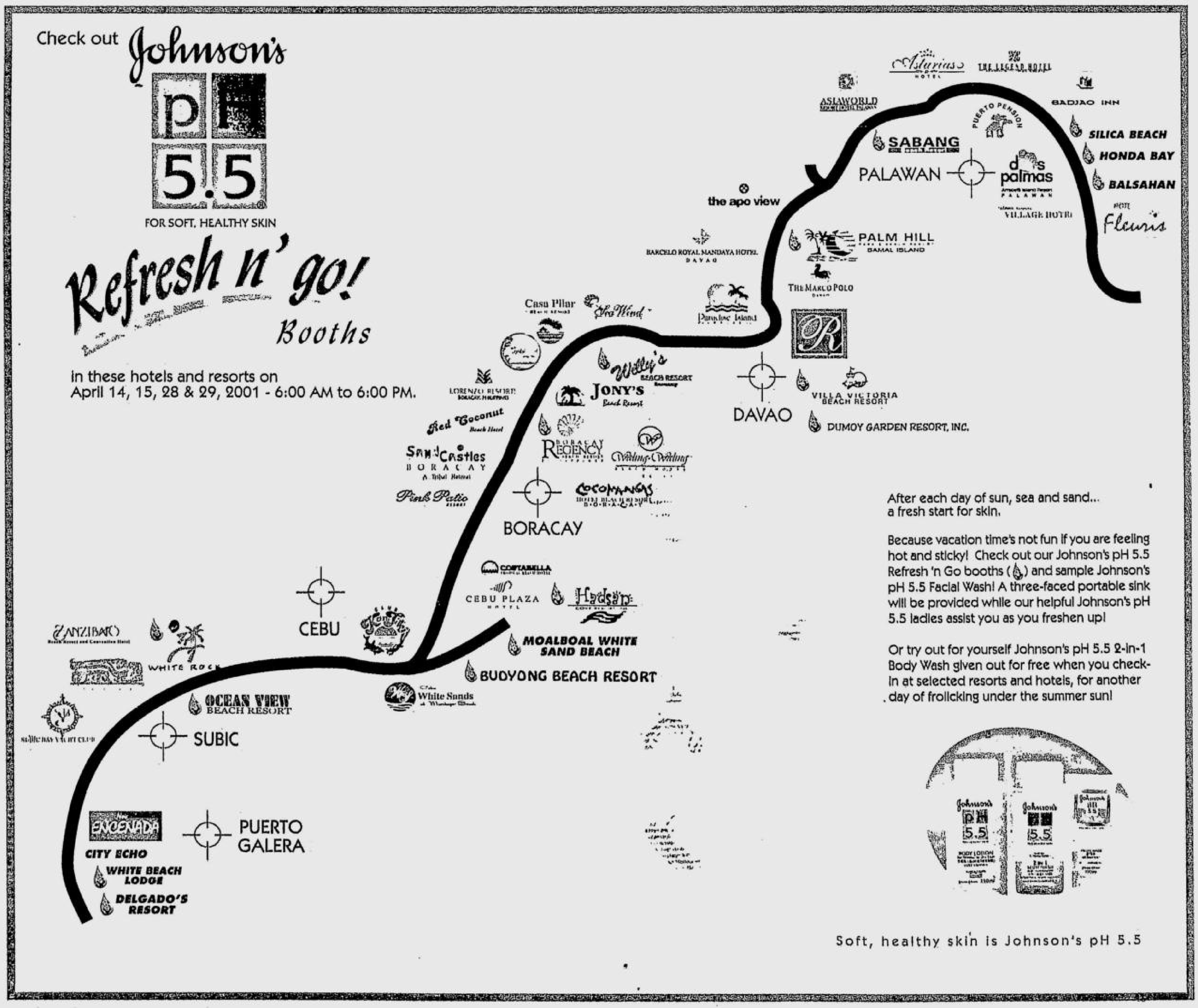
Aside from this, all Festival Supermall patrons may join the Bring Home a Bunny Promo. For a P500 purchase in any of the mall's shop (except the amusement rides, Tom's World, Pixie Forest, X-Site and Festival Cinemas), one is entitled to spin in the Easter Wheel and real live bunny or goody packs.

Participants must present their receipts to the promo girls in the redemption booth located at the Carousel Court for verification. He or she may then spin the wheel and get the chance to win a bunny in a basket or fabulous prizes courtesy of Chicco, Shopwise, Stick-o, Godiva, Pokémon and Nestlé Ice Cream.



MEDITERRANEAN PIZZA TREATS

Shakey's treats its valued customers with a new twist in pizza perfection this Lenten season via its new Mediterranean Pizza.
Inspired with the classic European bold flavors, Shakey's Mediterranean Pizza combines the freshest tuna with black olives, Feta cheese and Italian herbs and spices. Available at all Shakey's outlets. The Mediterranean Pizza is offered until April 30.



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FOR SOFT, HEALTHY SKIN

Refresh n' go! Booths

in these hotels and resorts on
April 14, 15, 28 & 29, 2001 - 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

After each day of sun, sea and sand...
a fresh start for skin.

Because vacation time's not fun if you are feeling hot and sticky! Check out our Johnson's pH 5.5 Refresh 'n Go booths (💧) and sample Johnson's pH 5.5 Facial Wash! A three-faced portable sink will be provided while our helpful Johnson's pH 5.5 ladies assist you as you freshen up!

Or try out for yourself Johnson's pH 5.5 2-in-1 Body Wash given out for free when you check-in at selected resorts and hotels, for another day of frolicking under the summer sun!

Soft, healthy skin is Johnson's pH 5.5